

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY ON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Winooski School District believes that the college and career readiness of students is largely determined by rigorous and relevant learning that meets students where they are, and continually supports them to grow.

In addition, this Winooski School District policy is intended to comply with the provisions of Vermont Education Statutes and Vermont State Board of Education Rules governing the requirements for graduation.

Students shall participate in the graduation ceremony and will be awarded a diploma at Winooski High School upon:

1. Satisfactory completion of twenty-four (24) units of credit, or the equivalent proficiencies:

<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Credits in Arts and Humanities	7
Credits in Math, Science and Technology	7
Credits in the Social Sciences	7
Elective Credits	3
Total Credits Required	24

The distribution of courses shall meet the requirements as outlined in the Vermont Education Quality Standards (Effective April 5, 2014). The written and delivered curriculum will allow students to demonstrate proficiency in:

- a) literacy (including critical thinking, language, reading, speaking and listening, and writing);
- b) mathematical content and practices (including numbers, operations, and the concepts of algebra and geometry by the end of grade 10);
- c) scientific inquiry and content knowledge (including the concepts of life sciences, physical sciences, earth and space sciences and engineering design);
- d) global citizenship (including the concepts of civics, economics, geography, world language, cultural studies and history);
- e) physical education and health education as defined in 16 V.S.A. §131;
- f) artistic expression (including visual, media and performing arts); and
- g) transferable skills (including communication, collaboration, creativity, innovation, inquiry, problem solving and the use of technology).

AND

2. Satisfactory completion of all non-credit graduation requirements as outlined in the Program of Studies and the Senior Project Handbook. These will include:

- a) completion of a community service-learning project of at least ten (10) hours, with the necessary documentation;
 - b) completion of the Portrait of Personal Achievement (Portfolio);
 - c) completion of a Senior Project as outlined in the Senior Project Handbook;
 - d) completion of a reflection paper; and
 - e) completion of the Senior Exposition.
3. For students with disabilities who have been provided with a reasonable and appropriate opportunity to access transition planning, and have satisfactorily completed transition planning in the following domains:
- a) Vocational/employment training, and
 - b) Post-secondary education, or
 - c) Independent living (if needed), or
 - d) Community participation

OR

4. A comprehensive Multi-year Plan including reasonable and appropriate opportunities to access transition planning.

Multi-year plan (as defined by the Vermont Department of Education Special Education Regulations – August 2006 – Section 2120.8.2.1(c): A multi-year plan is an individual plan for students with limiting handicaps that leads to completion of both the credit and non-credit graduation requirements. This plan shall include a component explaining any exception to the graduation requirements and alternative requirements designed for the pupil. A description of the process follows:

- A request for a multi-year plan may be made by students, parents, teachers, guidance personnel or school administrators.
- For students who are eligible for special education, a multi-year plan shall be considered at a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting beginning with the IEP meeting to plan services for the year in which the student turns 14 years old.
- The participants at the IEP meeting shall develop a multi-year plan if they determine that it is necessary in order for the student to graduate. The student's superintendent or his/her designee shall review and approve or disapprove all multi-year plans.
- Any changes to a multi-year plan shall be submitted by the IEP participants.
- When approved, completion of the multi-year plan shall be stated as one of the goals in the student's IEP.
- Upon successful completion of an approved multi-year plan for graduation, a diploma shall be awarded to the student.

English Language Learners, students with disabilities and multi-year plan students may be eligible for an exemption from or an adapted Senior Project. This decision will be made by the student's ELL, IEP or 504 team. The adaptations will be made based on the individual student's strengths, areas of need, and the severity of the identified disability.

Students with disabilities on a multi-year plan may participate in graduation ceremonies and other senior year activities with their peers. At the graduation, the student would receive a certificate in lieu of a diploma until he/she completes all the requirements for graduation.

5. Graduation requirements shall be published annually in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Reviewed and Updated:

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1st Reading: October 11, 2017

2nd Reading: November 8, 2017

Approved by Board of School Trustees: November 8, 2017

Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. §131
 16 V.S.A. §164
 16 V.S.A. §165
 16 V.S.A. §261
 16 V.S.A. §906
 16 V.S.A. §2902

Cross Reference(s):