

TPS Parent-Student Handbook 2026–2027

Summary of Major Revisions for Board of Education Presentation

The 2026–2027 Parent-Student Handbook includes several updates designed to improve communication, academic accountability, student safety, graduation readiness, and alignment with current state requirements.

1. Academic Assessments and Exams

- Established quarterly expectations requiring teachers to provide a minimum of 10 assignments per quarter, including at least 2 assessments.
- Clarified district assessment practices, including STAR, SBA, PSAT, SAT, NGSS, and Fitness Assessments.
- Added language stating that testing dates will be published annually in advance.
- Reintroduced Midterm and Final Exams for students in grades 9–12 beginning in 2026–2027.

2. Academic Probation Updates

- Created a more structured Academic Probation process:
 1. Mandatory Homework Club
 2. Mandatory parent meeting
 3. Removal of extracurricular privileges if concerns persist.
- Students on Academic Probation must remain in Advisory until removed from probation.
- Added staff responsibility to monitor Academic Probation lists and notify students, parents, and administration when participation in extracurricular activities is restricted.
- Clarified that Academic Probation resets at the end of each quarter.

3. Academic Non-Compliance Interventions

- Added a progressive intervention process before Academic Probation is assigned:
 - Homework Club
 - Parent meetings
 - RTI supports
 - Administrative referrals when necessary.
- Added intervention supports for students at risk of failure, emphasizing early intervention and parent involvement. (Also included Intervention Chart)

4. Grade Retention and Summer School

- Clarified middle school promotion requirements.

- Added expectations regarding summer school participation for students failing multiple core courses.
- Defined circumstances under which students may be retained or promoted.

5. Graduation Requirement Updates

- Updated graduation language to align with Connecticut requirements.
- Thomaston High School has transitioned its Grade Point Average (GPA) scale from a 6.0 scale to a 4.0 scale. This change provides students and families with a more familiar and widely recognized method for understanding academic performance. A student's GPA represents their overall academic performance based on the grades earned in their courses.
- Any 8th grade or 12th grade student that has not met grade level requirements will not be permitted to participate in his/her commencement/moving up ceremony.
- Added FAFSA completion (or approved waiver) requirement for graduating students beginning with applicable classes.
- Updated graduation requirements for the Class of 2029 and beyond, including:
 - Revised Humanities and STEM credit distributions.
 - Financial Literacy requirement.
 - Computer Applications requirement.
 - Expanded pathways to earn graduation credit.

6. Summer School Eligibility

- Added a minimum year average requirement (55%) for students seeking summer school credit recovery.
- Clarified administrative discretion for senior eligibility.

7. Attendance and Appeals

- Updated attendance appeal procedures and forms.
- Clarified loss-of-credit appeal procedures for excessive absences.
- Added references to updated Attendance Appeal forms and committee procedures.

8. Extracurricular Activities

- Added language stating students may not participate in extracurricular activities offered by other public high schools without prior administrative approval.
- Updated and expanded the list of student clubs and activities.

9. School Safety Enhancements

- Added a new **Comprehensive Threat Assessment** section outlining:
 - How threats are identified and evaluated.
 - Definitions of transient and substantive threats.
 - Investigation and response procedures.
 - Expectations for reporting threats to administration.

10. Technology and Artificial Intelligence

- Added a new **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** section.
- Establishes expectations for responsible and ethical AI use.
- Clarifies that AI may support learning but cannot replace original student work.
- States that misuse of AI may result in academic or disciplinary consequences.

11. PATHS Program Updates

- Clarified graduation expectations for PATHS students.
- States that PATHS students are not required to complete the Portfolio component but must complete Capstone requirements.
- Provides administrative flexibility to accommodate student needs.

12. Communication and Administrative Updates

- Updated Board of Education membership and district personnel information.
- Added references to ParentSquare and Board of Education agendas as official communication methods.
- Updated school year calendar and district contact information throughout the handbook.

13. Food Services

- Information pertaining to balance owed for breakfast or lunch will be communicated by the Foods Services Director.

14. Safe School Climate Plan

- The link to each School's Climate Plan has been added to the Thomaston Public School Parent Student Handbook.

The revisions focus on:

- Strengthening academic accountability.
- Increasing parent communication.
- Providing clearer intervention systems for struggling students.
- Improving school safety procedures.
- Aligning graduation requirements with state mandates.
- Establishing expectations for emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.
- Clarifying participation expectations for extracurricular activities and Academic Probation.