Instruction

Graduation Requirements

Graduation from our public school implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study for the grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the statewide mastery examinations, established by the faculty and approved by the Board of Education, and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits. Graduation shall not be held until 180 days and 900 hours of actual schoolwork are completed.

The Board of Education, in establishing a graduation date, may establish for any school year a firm graduation date for students in grade twelve which is no earlier than the one-hundred-eighty-first (181st) day in the Board's adopted school calendar.

The principal shall submit to the Board of Education through the Superintendent his/her detailed requirements and standards to agree with the goals of our district as adopted by the Board of Education. It is expected that the faculty will apply measures of achievement to provide evidence that each student has progressed far enough toward school goals to warrant graduation according to the terms of paragraph #1 above.

The Board of Education, in recognition of its responsibility for the education of all students in the district, including those who do not successfully complete the assessment criteria listed above, and those who drop out of school, shall make available to all the school district's students a course of study or alternative programming for meeting standards that will enable them to acquire a high school or vocational school diploma.

The Board of Education shall award a high school diploma to any World War II veteran or veteran of the Korean Hostilities or Vietnam Era veteran requesting such diploma who left high school for military service as defined in the statutes and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

The Board of Education shall award a high school diploma to any person who (1) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (2) did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such work, and (3) has been a resident of the state for at least fifty (50) consecutive years.

The Board of Education may grant students high school credit for successful completion of coursework earned from an accredited institution of higher learning taken either during the school year or summer months.

Required Coursework and Credits for Graduation

The Thomaston Board of Education conforms with state law regarding credits for graduation from high school.

Classes Graduating in 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028

For classes graduating in 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028, the following 25 credits are required:

Instruction

Graduation Requirements (continued)

(1) nine credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts;
(2) nine credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
(3) one credit in physical education and wellness;
(4) one credit in health and safety education;
(5) one credit in world languages; and
(6) a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment.

Thomaston High School will follow guidance provided by the State Department of Education regarding credits towards graduation requirements.

Commencing with the graduating class of 2029 (beginning with the incoming class of 2025-2026) and for each graduating class thereafter, in order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than:

HUMANITIES ***9.0 Credits Total***

English	**4.0 Credits**	
Social Studies	**3.5 Credits**	Must include: - 1.0 Credit US History - 0.5 Credits in Civics - 2.0 Social Studies Electives
Fine Arts, Visual Arts, Music, or Theater	**1.0 Credits**	
Additional Humanities	**0.5 Credit**	Includes courses in English (beyond the 4.0 credits required); Social Studies (beyond the 3.0 credits required); Fine Arts/ Visual Arts/ Music/ Theater (beyond the 1.0 credit required); and World Language (beyond the 1.0 credit required)

S.T.E.M. ***9.0 Credits Total***

Mathematics	**3.0 Credits**	
Science	**3.0 Credits**	Must include: - 1.0 Life-Science based elective - 1.0 Physical-Science based

Instruction

Graduation Requirements (continued)

		elective(non-life science)
S.T.E.M. Electives	**3.0 Credits**	Must include: - 0.5 Credit Financial Literacy (Personal Finance) - 0.5 Credit Computer applications - 2.0 Credits for any math, science, or technology courses

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH, & WELLNESS ***2.0 Credits Total***

Physical Education & Wellness	**1.0 Credit**	
Health & Safety Education	**1.0 Credit**	

WORLD LANGUAGE ***1.0 Credits Total***

World Language	**1.0 Credit**	

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE / PORTFOLIO EXHIBITION OF LEARNING EXPERIENCE ***1.0 Credits Total***

Portfolio/ Capstone Project	**1.5 Credit**	

ELECTIVES ***2.5 Credits Total***

Elective Courses	**2.5 Credits**	Elective courses from any department beyond the requirements stated above

TOTAL	**25.0 Credits**	

Instruction

Graduation Requirements (continued)

The above-listed credits are further defined and described in the Thomaston Public Schools Parent-Student Handbook.

A student shall be excused from the physical education requirement upon presentation of a certificate from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse indicating that participation in physical education is medically contraindicated because of the student's physical condition. The credit for physical education may be fulfilled by an elective.

In addition, beginning with the graduating class of 2023, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven (2017-2018 school year). Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, previously listed if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited to,

(1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course;
(2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education,
(3) allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and
(4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

The Board of Education shall grant a student credit towards meeting high school graduation requirements for

(1) completing a world-language course provided by a non-profit organization and
(2) passing a subject area proficiency test identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Up to four credits for a private non-profit world language course shall be granted if the student achieves a passing grade on a test prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. In other subject areas, credit shall be granted, based upon successful passage of the subject area proficiency tests prescribed or identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education, * regardless of the number of hours spent by the student in a public school classroom learning the subject matter.

Instruction

Graduation Requirements (continued)

**The Commissioner, per statute, must prescribe or identify and approve the examinations within available appropriations.*

The fulfillment of the mandated one credit foreign language requirement, beginning with the class of 2023, can include the successful completion of a world language course in grades six, seven or eight, or an online course successfully completed, or the successful completion of a course offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed by the Commissioner and such credits do not exceed four.

All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of online courses must fulfill the requirements established in policy #6172.6, "Virtual/On-line Courses."

The Board shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plan shall include a students' career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive. Per statute (C.G.S. 221a(f)) the determination of eligible credits is at the discretion of the Board of Education, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The Board may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion if the Board determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits. The graduation requirements shall apply to any student requiring special education except when the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines the requirement not to be appropriate.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned:

(1) at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State Board of Education or regionally accredited,
(2) through on-line coursework or
(3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

To maintain full-time student status and remain on track for graduation, all students are required to enroll in a minimum of six (6) credits per academic year. Exceptions to this policy may be considered on a case-by-case basis with prior approval from the administration.
Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, and that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education shall satisfy the graduation requirements except that the Board may grant a student credit toward meeting the high school graduation requirements upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter content described in this section achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college, courses taken in middle school, internships and student designed independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide content standards; toward meeting a specified course requirement upon successful completion in grade seven or eight of a course that corresponds

Instruction

Graduation Requirements (continued)
directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine through twelve.

Instruction

Graduation Requirements (continued)

Academic Advancement Program

The Board of Education permits students in grades eleven and twelve to substitute

(1) achievement of a passing score on an existing nationally recognized examination, approved by the State Board of Education, or series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education,
(2) a cumulative grade point average determined by the State Board of Education and
(3) at least three letters of recommendation from school professionals (defined in 10-66dd), for the required high school graduation requirement.

The State Board of Education will issue an Academic Advancement Program Certificate to any student successfully completing such program. The Academic Advancement Program Certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a student for enrollment at a Connecticut public institution of higher education.

The Board of Education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the above-described academic advancement program.

Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy

Commencing with the graduating class of 2018, and for each graduating class thereafter, the Board of Education, utilizing criteria established by the State Board of Education, may/shall affix the "Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy" to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages. "Foreign language" means a world language other than English and includes American Sign Language and any other language spoken by a federally recognized Native American tribe. The Board of Education shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student received the "Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy."

Award of High School Diplomas

Students who complete all graduation requirements shall receive a diploma at the June commencement. Individuals may also satisfy graduation requirements by satisfactory completions of the following:

1. Successful completion of a summer course or summer courses comparable (as determined by the principal) to the subject(s) in which the student was deficient.

2. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces after a minimum of ninety days of active service during WWII for individuals who withdrew from school to join the Armed Forces and for veterans of the Korean Hostilities and for veterans of the Vietnam Era.

3. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces for individuals who left high school prior to graduation and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

Instruction

Graduation Requirements (continued)

4. Withdrawal from high school prior to graduation to work on a job that assisted war effort during World War II, December 7, 1941 through December 31. 1946, not receiving a diploma as a consequence of such work and has been a resident of Connecticut for at least fifty (50) consecutive years.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-5 State high school diploma" "honors diploma." Payment of fees; exceptions. (as amended by PA 17-29)

10-5c Board examination series pilot program. Issuance of certificate (as amended by P.A. 13-247 and P.A. 15-215)

10-14n State-wide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results. (as amended by Section 115 of PA 14-217)

10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (as amended by P.A. 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education

Instruction

Graduation Requirements (continued)

Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes, P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill,

P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation and P.A. 16-4(SS), section 310), PA 17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements and PA 17-29, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy)

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166)

P.A. 13-108, An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.

P.A. 13-247, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget.

P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation

P.A. 17-42 An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements

P.A. 23-21 An Act Concerning Financial Literacy Instruction