

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

The Board expects the Superintendent/designee to inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

The Board has approved this schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which includes minimum requirements specified by the State. The Board is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change.

### I. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS' GRADUATION FROM ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL

Students who anticipate graduating from Islesboro Central School must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma.

- A. Graduating students must successfully complete a total of 25 credits. Of these credits, 18 credits must be those specified by the State of Maine and/or Islesboro Central School. They are:
  1. ENGLISH - FOUR CREDITS - Students shall meet the credits by taking English 9 and continuing with semester electives that develop reading comprehension, literature, written, listening and oral communication skills, the structure and uses of the English language and research and reporting skills.
  2. MATHEMATICS - THREE CREDITS – Students shall meet the credits by taking Algebra I, Geometry or Algebra II, and at least one additional math elective.
  3. SOCIAL STUDIES - THREE CREDITS - Students shall meet the credits by taking US History, Government, and either Economics or World History.

4. SCIENCE - THREE CREDITS – Students shall meet the requirements by taking Biology and Environmental Science, and at least one other elective course which may include Physics, Chemistry, Horticulture. or other semester electives to meet the third credit.
  5. FINE ARTS - ONE CREDIT. Fine Arts may include arts, music, or drama.
  6. HEALTH EDUCATION - .5 CREDIT.
  7. PHYSICAL EDUCATION - ONE CREDIT.
  8. COMPUTER APPLICATION - ONE CREDIT.
  9. FOREIGN LANGUAGE – ONE CREDIT (Obtained in grades 9-12 for graduating classes of 2019 and 2020.)
  10. SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES - ONE CREDIT Students shall enroll in one Sustainability related course before graduation.
  11. GRADUATION PORTFOLIO- ONE CREDIT - .25 credit per year = 1 CREDIT after the completion of a student’s four years of high school. Students will be responsible for the organization and maintenance of a comprehensive student portfolio on a yearly basis and be prepared for a senior exiting portfolio presentation. The portfolio is a way for students to show their understanding of the Maine Learning Results Guiding Principles.
  12. The remaining credits may be selected by the student based upon students’ interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.
- B. CLASS OF 2018, 2019, and 2020 – Students will be required to meet the above requirements in Section A and also the following requirements:
- EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES – Students are required to engage in educational experiences relating to English language arts, mathematics, and science and technology in each year of the student’s secondary schooling as per Maine Revised Statute 20-A §4722 (A). Educational experiences may be actual courses offered at Islesboro Central School or different pathways that students choose, including, but not limited to internships, college courses, or independent studies.
- C. CLASS OF 2021 – The Class of 2021 will have a new Graduation Requirements policy that will be adopted in the spring of 2016.

## II. ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF EARNING CREDITS

A student may meet these requirements in accordance with the provisions of this section. A student who wishes to meet credit requirements through alternative methods must have prior written approval as specified in this section. The student may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of all credit requirements. A student may earn up to 2 credits in total toward graduation requirements through alternative methods, with exceptions approved by the school administration for accelerated student programs or identified gifted students. Alternative methods for earning credits are as follows:

- A. A student may earn credits through Individualized Programs of Study (Policy III) or Alternative School Programs (Policy IHC).

## III. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL

### A. Transfer Students

For students who transfer to Islesboro Central School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to be aligned with the content standards of the system of Learning Results, a committee composed of the Islesboro Central School Principal, Guidance Counselor, SE Coordinator, and a subject area teacher shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards meeting graduation requirements.

### B. Home-schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Islesboro Central School, a committee composed of the Islesboro Central School Principal, Guidance Counselor, SE Coordinator, and a subject area teacher, shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements. A home schooled student must have taken a minimum of 10 required graduation credits (not electives) at Islesboro Central School in order to receive an Islesboro Central School diploma.

### C. Students Receiving Special Education Services

Students, who successfully meet the content standards of the Learning Results, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

### D. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

A student who leaves Islesboro Central School to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may upon satisfactory completion of the freshman year be awarded a high school diploma, provided that the student has notified the principal at the time of the early admission.

E. Early Awarding of Diplomas

A student who has met the State's and the Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.

F. Extended Study

Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other resources suitable to young learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

G. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises. Exceptions may be made based on a *Graduation Completion Plan for Credit Recovery* that is developed and approved by the principal, guidance counselor and subject matter teacher(s).

I. Honors and Awards at Graduation

In order to be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian honors, a student must have been enrolled full time at Islesboro Central School for at least two years preceding graduation.

J. Exceptions

A secondary school diploma may be awarded to a person who meets the requirements stated in 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722 Section 3 – Exceptions.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722  
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options  
IK – Student Achievement  
IKFA - Early Graduation  
IHC - Alternative School Programs for High School Graduation  
Credit

IHC-R - Alternative School Programs for High School Graduation  
Credit – Administrative Procedures  
III – Individualized Study for High School Credit  
III-R – Individualized Study for High School Credit –  
Administrative Procedures  
IHBGA – Home Schooling-Participation in School Programs

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