

(2) District boards of education may utilize performance or competency assessment to approve student completion of programs aimed at meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards at the secondary level, including those occurring all or in part prior to a student's high school enrollment;

(3) District boards of education may recognize successful completion of an accredited college course that assures achievement of knowledge and skills as delineated in the Core Curriculum Content Standards or includes learning that builds on and goes beyond the standards;

(4) District boards of education shall choose from among the following assessment options to determine if students have achieved the level of language proficiency designated as Novice-High as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and recognized as fulfilling the world languages requirement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards:

(A) The Language Learning Solutions (LLS) online assessment;

(B) The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI); or

(C) Department-approved locally designed competency-based assessments;

2. Local student attendance requirements;
3. Any other requirements established by the district board of education;
4. Any statutorily mandated requirements for earning a high school diploma; and
5. The requirement that all students demonstrate proficiency in all sections of the HSPA or SRA process applicable to the class graduating in the year they meet all other graduation requirements.
6. Starting with those students graduating from an adult high school in the 2004-2005 academic year, students shall demonstrate proficiency in all sections of the HSPA or SRA process for any subjects not yet passed on a previously approved Statewide assessment required for graduation.

(b) District boards of education may count Advanced Placement (AP) courses or college credit courses as fulfilling credit requirements in (a)1i above or program completion requirements in (a)1ii above.

(c) District boards of education, through the IEP process and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11, Graduation, may, for individual students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3, specify alternate requirements for a State-endorsed diploma.

1. District boards of education shall specifically address any alternate requirements for graduation in a student's IEP, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11.

2. District boards of education shall develop and implement procedures for assessing whether a student has met any alternate requirements for graduation individually determined in an IEP.

(d) District boards of education shall provide their graduation requirements to the Commissioner and update this filed copy as their graduation policies are revised.

(e) District boards of education shall provide, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5, each student entering high school and his or her parents or legal guardians with a copy of the district board of education's requirements for a State-endorsed diploma, and those programs available to assist students in attaining a State-endorsed diploma.

(f) District boards of education shall provide students who have not demonstrated proficiency on one or more sections of the HSPA following the 11th grade with the opportunity to demonstrate such competence through both repeated administrations of the HSPA and the SRA process.

1. District boards of education shall submit the results of the SRA process to the appropriate county superintendent of schools by March 31 of each year for approval for graduation in June of the same year.

2. County superintendents, as the Commissioner's designees, shall review the results of each student's SRA and recommend to the Commissioner either approval or disapproval for graduation.

3. All students of limited English proficiency shall satisfy the requirements for high school graduation according to (a)1 through 3 above, except that any students of limited English proficiency may demonstrate that they have attained State minimum levels of proficiency through:

i. Passage of the SRA process in their native language and passage of an English fluency assessment approved by the Department of Education; or

ii. Passage of the SRA process in English with appropriate accommodations.

4. Students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and who participate in the SRA process are not required to participate in repeated administrations of the HSPA.

Amended by R.2001 d.145, effective May 7, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 398(a), 33 N.J.R. 1471(a).

Rewrote (a)6.

Amended by R.2002 d.357, effective November 4, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 2916(a), 34 N.J.R. 3804(a).

In (a), substituted "2003-2004" for "2001-2002" in 1i(7), rewrote 5, added new 6 and recodified former 6 as 7; rewrote (f)4; added (g)4.

Amended by R.2003 d.430, effective November 3, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2551(a), 35 N.J.R. 5077(a).

In (a), substituted "2004-2005" for "2003-2004" preceding "grade nine class" in 1i(7).

Amended by R.2004 d.56, effective February 2, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4165(a), 36 N.J.R. 662(b).

Rewrote (a).

Amended by R.2005 d.213, effective July 5, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 833(a), 37 N.J.R. 2487(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2006 d.315, effective September 5, 2006.

See: 38 N.J.R. 2253(a), 38 N.J.R. 3530(b).

In the introductory paragraph of (c), updated the first N.J.A.C. reference; in (c)1, updated the N.J.A.C. reference.

6A:8-5.2 High school diplomas

(a) District boards of education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to prospective graduates who have met all of the requirements adopted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a), 5.1(c), or (d) below.

(b) District boards of education shall not issue a high school diploma to any student not meeting the criteria specified in the rule provisions referenced in (a) above.

1. District boards of education shall provide students exiting grade 12 without a diploma the opportunity for continued high school enrollment to age 20, or until the requirements for a State-endorsed diploma have been met, whichever comes first.

2. District boards of education shall allow any out-of-school individual to age 20 who has otherwise met all State and local graduation requirements but has failed to pass the HSPA to return to school at scheduled times for the purpose of taking the necessary test. Upon certification of passing the test applicable to the student's class in concordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a) 3, a State-endorsed diploma will be granted by the high school of record.

(c) The Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:30-1.3(a)1, shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma based on

achieving the Statewide standard scores for passage of the General Educational Development (GED) test, to individuals age 16 or older who are no longer enrolled in school and have not achieved a high school credential.

(d) Starting in the 2002-2003 academic year, district boards of education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to any individual who:

1. Has performed at a proficient or advanced proficient level of achievement in all sections of the HSPA;
2. Has presented official transcripts showing at least 30 general education credits leading to a degree at an accredited institution of higher education; and
3. Has, if a student currently enrolled in a public school, formally requested such early award of a State-endorsed high school diploma.

(e) The chief school administrator or lead person of a charter school, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-7 and 18A:7E-3, shall report annually at a public meeting, not later than September 30, to the district board of education or the charter school board of trustees, and to the Commissioner:

1. The total number of students graduated;
2. The number of students graduated under the SRA process;
3. The number of students receiving State-endorsed high school diplomas as a result of meeting any alternate requirements for graduation as specified in their IEPs;
4. The total number of students denied graduation from the 12th grade class; and
5. The number of students denied graduation from the 12th grade class solely because of failure to pass the HSPA or SRA, based on the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)3.