

Instruction

Graduation Requirements

Overview

The Stafford Board of Education requirements for a Stafford High School diploma include earning at least 22 high school credits in accordance with the required distribution of credits displayed below. Students must also successfully meet the Stafford Public Schools Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Performance Standards in Math and Science and Language Arts.

Required Credit Distribution

English		4 credits
Social Studies	1.5 credits must be in U.S. History, 1 credit must be in World Culture, and, 0.5 credit must be in Civics.	3 credits
Math		3 credits
Arts or Vocational Education		1 credit
Science	(1 credit must be in Biology)	3 credits
Health		1/2 credit
Physical Education		1 credit
Applied Computer Technology	(Graphic Design, CAD, or computer programming may be substituted)	1/2 credit
Electives		6 credits
Total		22 credits

Students are required to have a schedule carrying at least 5.5 credits each school year.

One-credit (1.0) courses meet daily for both semesters.

Half-credit (0.5) courses meet daily for one semester.

Effective with the 2012-2013 school year, Stafford High School will award credit to students who successfully complete Algebra 1 or World Language at Stafford Middle School as per the following criteria:

- Successfully complete the course requirements; and
- Earn a grade of C- (70%) or better on the final exam.

Students will receive credit for Algebra 1 and/or World Language as long as they meet the performance criteria listed above. These credits will appear on a Stafford High School transcript as courses they took at Stafford Middle School for credit.

Stafford Public Schools Performance Standards

Language Arts Performance Standard:

Students must meet the District's Language Arts performance standard in at least one of the areas listed below:

A. Student must achieve a CAPT score in band 3 or above on the Reading Across the Disciplines and Writing Across the Disciplines tests.

B. Students who do not score in band 3 or above must retake the CAPT Reading Across the Disciplines and/or Writing Across the Disciplines subtests during their junior year. If students do not successfully complete the CAPT as indicated above, they will participate in and successfully complete CAPT remediation activities.

Math and Science Performance Standard:

Students must meet the District's Math and Science Performance Standard in at least one of the areas listed below:

A. Student must achieve a CAPT score in band 3 or above on the Mathematics and Science tests.

B. Students who do not score in band 3 or above must retake the CAPT Mathematics and/or Science subtests, as warranted, during their junior year. If students do not successfully complete the CAPT as indicated above, they will participate in and successfully complete CAPT remediation activities.

Special Education Students

The Planning and Placement Team (PPT) may elect to exempt from this graduation requirement special education students, whose disabilities interfere with their test performance and who have made at least two attempts to meet the standards. In certain cases, however, this condition may be waived if the PPT finds that the student's disability warrants the complete exemption, but only after the test has been attempted with appropriate accommodations. An alternate assessment will be developed by the PPT.

Transfer Students

Students transferring from another Connecticut school or an out of state school, or from a non-public school setting will be required to meet the Stafford Public Schools Performance Standards, unless the student is a twelfth grader transferring from out of state.

Twelfth grade students transferring from out of state or from a non-public school setting and planning to graduate will be required to meet the graduation requirements set forth in this policy. However, the Principal and the appropriate Department Head shall evaluate scores received from the mandated tests of other states to determine if the student will be considered as having met the Stafford Public Schools Performance Standards. It would be necessary that the student's scores are commensurate with the standards set by the Connecticut State Department of Education for CAPT scores in band 3 or above.

Should such a twelfth grade student not have comparable scores on state-mandated tests in Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, the student will participate in and successfully complete CAPT remediation activities in the area(s) of deficiency.

Implementation

Eleventh graders scoring in band 1 or 2 on one or more of the following CAPT subtests (from the May testing in the previous school year):

- A. Reading Across the Disciplines
- B. Writing Across the Disciplines
- C. Mathematics
- D. Science

will be required to:

1. Retake the respective CAPT subtests in March of the junior year.

and

2. Enroll in the appropriate Stafford High School eleventh grade CAPT retake prep course(s), as defined by the relevant area(s) of deficiency.

Juniors will satisfy the Stafford Public Schools Performance Standards by retaking and passing the appropriate CAPT subtests.

Twelfth graders not having met the performance standards in accordance with this policy will be required to enroll in twelfth grade Language Arts and/or

Math and Science CAPT remediation courses linked to the area(s) of deficiency. Seniors will have satisfied the Stafford Public Schools Performance Standards upon successful completion of CAPT remediation activities or upon receiving CAPT re-take scores in score band 3 or 4.

Notification

Parent/Guardian Notification

Parents/guardians of eleventh graders whose CAPT scores are in bands 1 or 2 will be sent written notification of the Stafford Public Schools Performance Standards required for graduation and the necessity of their son/daughter to enroll in CAPT remediation activities. Parents/guardians of twelfth graders who have not met the performance standards for graduation will also receive written notification.

Revised Requirements Beginning with Graduation Class of 2020

Commencing with the graduating class of 2020, in order to graduate and be granted a diploma students must satisfactorily complete (1) a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (A) Nine credits in the Humanities, including not fewer than (i) four credits in English, including Composition; (ii) three credits in Social Studies, including at least one credit in American History and at least one-half credit in Civics and American Government; (iii) one credit in Fine Arts; and (iv) one credit in a Humanities elective; (B) eight credits in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, including not fewer than (i) four credits in Mathematics, including Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II or

Probability and Statistics; (ii) three credits in Science, including at least one credit in Life Science and at least one credit in Physical Science; and (iii) one credit in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics elective; (C) three and one-half credits in Career and Life Skills, including not fewer than (i) one credit in Physical Education; (ii) one-half credit in Health and Safety Education and (iii) two credits in Career and Life Skills electives, such as Career and Technical Education, English as a Second Language, Community Service, Personal Finance, Public Speaking and Nutrition and Physical Activity; (D) two credits in World Languages, (E) a one credit senior demonstration project or its equivalent, as approved by the State Board of Education; and (2) end of the school year examinations for the following courses: (A) Algebra I, (B) Geometry, (C) Biology, (D) American History, and (E) grade ten English.

In addition, also beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven (2014-2015 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, or end of the school year examinations, 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, 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.

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."

Beginning July 1, 2012, 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.

(cf. [5123](#) - Promotion and Retention)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-14n](#) Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results.

[10-16\(l\)](#) Graduation exercises. (As amended by PA 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 and P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, PA 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, and PA 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform.)

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

Policy adopted: June 10, 2002

Policy revised: November 17, 2008

Policy revised: June 4, 2012

Policy revised: May 20, 2013