

# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### R5460 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

In order to graduate from a Black Horse Pike Regional School District High School, and receive a State-endorsed Board of Education diploma, a pupil must:

1. Meet both State and district proficiency standards in the Core Curriculum Content areas; achieve or exceed passing grade on HSPA;
2. Complete successfully any course requirements stated in the Administrative Code, unless those of the district are greater, in which case the district's standard must be met. The proficiencies required must include the Core Curriculum Content Standards approved by the State Board of Education; and
3. Select and complete successfully enough elective credits to meet the district minimum of one hundred fifteen twenty credits.

Successful completion means that the pupil has demonstrated the degree of proficiency required by the district to indicate achievement of the district goals for the particular course, and has attended the required number of course sessions.

Transfer pupils must meet all State and local requirements in order to receive a high school diploma.

The Superintendent shall put into effect the procedures necessary to assess each pupil upon entry into the system, and, annually thereafter, to identify those pupils not meeting the State or district proficiency requirements. He/she shall develop the programs necessary to remedy these deficiencies at the lowest possible grade level.

#### Basic Skills

Twelfth-grade pupils who have satisfied all other graduation requirements but have repeatedly failed the Statewide examination shall receive a Special Review Assessment as provided by law.

#### Pupils with Limited English Proficiency



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Pupils with limited English proficiency must be provided with the program opportunities required by law, and must fulfill the regular State and district requirements for graduation.

## Special Education Pupils

A disabled pupil must meet all State and local high school graduation requirements in order to receive a State-endorsed high school diploma unless exempted in his/her IEP with the written approval of the Director of Special Services,.

A pupil who qualifies may take the Alternate Proficiency Assessment, if alternate requirements for graduation have been specified in his/her IEP.

By June 30 of a disabled pupil's last year in the elementary program, the pupil's case manager, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and teacher(s) shall meet to review the instructional guide and basic plan of the pupil's IEP in view of the transition to the secondary program. Input from appropriate staff from the secondary school shall be part of the review.

The basic plan of the IEP for the pupil exiting the elementary program will address all the elements required in the administrative code. The description of the educational program will include exemptions, if any, from regular education program options or State and local graduation requirements including HSPA, along with the rationale for the exemptions. The exemptions must be approved in writing by Director of Special Services.

Required reviews of the IEP shall continue to address graduation requirements and shall explain why the proficiencies required for graduation are not part of the IEP.

## Proficiency

The subject matter and standards of proficiency shall be articulated with the sending elementary districts.

In accordance with law, the Board of Education shall have copies of this policy distributed to all ninth-grade (or otherwise entering) pupils and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s).



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They shall also be informed as to the examinations, demonstrated proficiencies, course and credit hour requirements, attendance policies, and any other State and local requirements.

## Early Graduation (Also see Policy 5465)

Pupils who have clearly demonstrated a scholastic aptitude, an unusual readiness for the world of work, a financial need, or a serious health or family concern may be considered for early graduation. Minimal graduation requirements must be completed early. Approval must be obtained from the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the administration.

## Pupil Enrollment in College Courses

The Board shall make reasonable efforts to develop articulation agreements with New Jersey colleges and universities to facilitate the delivery of college credit courses to qualified pupils. The Board shall determine eligibility requirements for these pupils and monitor the quality of the courses offered and college faculty who teach the courses.

## Reporting and Monitoring

The Superintendent shall include in the annual report to the Commissioner:

1. The total number of pupils graduated in the aggregate and disaggregated according to subgroups described in Federal law;
2. The number of pupils graduated under the Special Review Assessment (SRA) process;
3. The number of pupils receiving State-endorsed high school diplomas as a result of meeting any alternate requirements for graduation as specified in their IEP's;
4. The total number of pupils denied graduation from the twelfth grade class; and
5. The number of pupils denied graduation from the twelfth grade class solely because of failure to pass the HSPA or SRA, based on the provisions of administrative code.



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This information shall be reported to the Board at a public meeting prior to the date prescribed by law.

It is the policy of the Board to provide learning opportunities and programs that are appropriate to the abilities, needs, and interests of the pupils in order that they may successfully complete an appropriate course of studies leading to graduation.

Pupils will carry a minimum of five subjects each year (totaling twenty-five credits) plus physical education and its associated theory course. Seniors will be allowed to leave school after four hours if the number of credits and required courses for graduation permit them to graduate in June.

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1ii, commonly known as "Option Two." Option Two, or program completion, permits district boards of education to determine and establish curricular activities or programs aimed at achieving the Core Curriculum Content Standards for promotion and graduation purposes. Option Two serves as an alternative to traditional high school courses and involves in-depth experiences that may be provided by school district personnel or instructors not employed by the school district. In addition, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1ii(3) permits district boards of education to recognize successful completion of an accredited college course that assures achievement of the knowledge and skills delineated in the Core Curriculum Content Standards or includes learning that builds on and goes beyond the standards.

### Credit for College Courses

Credits may be earned for college courses taken while in high school under the following conditions:

1. Students must have administrative approval 60 days prior to enrolling in the course. Approval must be granted by the Director of School Counseling and High School Principal. Unless the courses are offered under a specific agreement between the college and the district, adult pupils/parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must obtain written approval prior to taking college course(s).
2. If the college course is a substitute for a course offered at the high school, the college course must meet the requirements of the high school course for which it is substituted. A course syllabus must be submitted to the Principal to make that determination.



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3. A three-credit college course (semester) shall be equal to 5 high school credits.
4. Approved college course(s) will be counted toward meeting graduation requirements but will not be counted in class ranking.

### Advanced Credit Via On-line Applications

Credits may be earned for on-line course work taken while in high school under the following conditions:

1. Students must have administrative approval 60 days prior to enrolling in the course. Approval must be granted by the Director of School Counseling and High School Principal. The High School Principal, in partnership with the Director of School Counseling and content area Supervisor will determine if the course will be approved for credit. A course syllabus must be submitted to the Principal to make that determination by the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.
2. On-line courses cannot substitute for a course not yet taken at the high school. Therefore, if the course is in our Program of Studies guide, students may not take an on-line replacement course if they have not yet taken the course with the High School, unless specifically authorized to do so by the high school administration.
3. Students are only permitted one on-line advanced credit course per semester (maximum 5 credits per semester). For the summer months, students will only be permitted one on-line course (maximum 5 credits). It is the student's responsibility to furnish the high school with an official transcript listing the course and grade at the conclusion of the course in order to get credit.
4. Approved on-line course(s) will be counted toward meeting graduation requirements, but will not be counted in class ranking. Furthermore, on-line courses will be listed as Pass/Fail on the transcript.



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5. For on-line courses to be considered for credit, all written requests have to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the start of the on-line course of the same year in which the credits are to count.

### Early Graduation (Also see Policy 5465)

Occasionally, pupils may wish to complete their high school experience early and graduate in three years. Pupils will be considered for early graduation under the following conditions:

1. Prior approval for early graduation must be obtained from the High School Principal. A written request must be submitted by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) no later than March 1 of the tenth grade year.
2. Pupils must have a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least a 2.5 and must have earned at least seventy credits by the end of tenth grade.
3. Pupils must meet all graduation requirements as outlined in this procedure including Basic Skills, Attendance, Credit Hours, and Curriculum. In addition to earning credits through the successful completion of courses shown in the Program of Studies Booklets at Triton, Highland and/or Timber Creek, pupils may satisfy the requirements of Credit Hours and Curriculum by taking advanced credit courses from another accredited high school and/or taking courses from an accredited college or university.
  - a. Prior approval must be obtained for courses taken at other accredited high schools. The Guidance Director may grant such approval based upon course descriptions submitted.
    - (1) Pupils must earn a grade of "C" or above (or its equivalent) in order for credit to be earned.
    - (2) Approved courses from other accredited high schools will be counted toward meeting graduation requirements but will not be counted in class ranking.
  - b. Prior approval must also be obtained for courses taken at an accredited college or university.



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- (1) A syllabus from each college course to be taken for high school credit must be submitted for prior approval. The Guidance Director shall submit such syllabi to the appropriate high school subject matter supervisors for determinations of their equivalency and/or if the courses meet New Jersey graduation requirements.
- (2) When approved, the college course(s) will count toward meeting graduation requirements but will not be counted in class ranking.
- (3) A three-credit college course (semester) shall be equal to 5 high school credits.
- (4) Pupils must earn a grade of "C" or above (or its equivalent) in order for credit to be earned.

### Early Admission to College

A number of colleges and universities over the years have offered early admission to grade twelve pupils. New Jersey Statute and Code permit school districts to honor credits earned in such programs on a case-by-case basis. The Black Horse Pike Regional School District will honor such credits only under the following conditions:

1. To be considered for an early admission program which will lead to a diploma from a district high school, by the end of grade eleven, a pupil must have earned at least ninety-five credits, among which are included five credits in Health and Physical Education for each year of attendance at a New Jersey high school, twenty credits in English or Language Arts, fifteen credits in Mathematics, fifteen credits in Science (ten credits for pupils who entered ninth grade prior to September 2000), five credits in Fine or Practical Arts, 2.5 credits in Career Exploration or Development, and fifteen credits in Social Studies, including ten credits in U.S. History. If any of these requirements have not been met, the pupil must take credits at the college, which will enable the pupil to complete these requirements.



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- a. A maximum of fifteen credits may be earned at the college to be transferred back to the high school to meet graduation requirements.
  - b. A three-credit college course (semester) shall be equal to 5 high school credits.
  - c. A syllabus from each college course to be taken for high school credit must be submitted for prior approval. The Guidance Director shall submit such syllabi to the appropriate high school subject matter supervisors for determinations of their equivalency and/or if the courses meet New Jersey graduation requirements. Adult pupils/parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be informed promptly of the supervisors' determinations.
  - d. When approved, the college courses will count toward graduation but will not be used in the determination of the final grade point average or class rank.
  - e. A grade of "C" or above or its equivalent must be earned to earn high school credit.
2. Only enrollment in an accredited college or university will be considered under this procedure. Enrollment in a preparatory school or "bridging program" which does not lead to a degree will not be considered for credit toward graduation at a district high school.
  3. Prior approval to participate in an early college admission program must be granted by the Superintendent. Adult pupils/parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must submit a description of the program, course syllabi, and a written request to participate to the school Guidance Director by May 1 of that pupil's junior year. The Guidance Director will seek course equivalence determinations from supervisors and forward a recommendation to the Principal by May 20. The Principal will forward his/her recommendation to the Superintendent by June 1. The Superintendent will notify the applicant of his/her decision by June 10.
  4. If approval is granted, the pupil must withdraw from the district high school for the period of time he/she is attending college and may not



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participate in high school activities or athletics. The pupil also will not be eligible for honors and school-decided scholarships. The pupil may enroll in the district high school upon completion of the college year and be subject to all rules and regulations thereto.

- a. Upon enrollment, the pupil will not attend high school classes.
  - b. The returning pupil must attend graduation practice sessions if he/she wishes to participate in the graduation ceremony. The pupil may opt not to participate and receive his/her diploma on the first business day following the graduation ceremony.
  - c. The responsibility for communicating with the high school to arrange purchase of the yearbook, rental of the cap and gown, forwarding of college transcripts, and other purposes is placed upon the adult pupil/parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
5. A pupil who does not attend a district high school for grade twelve shall not be considered for the valedictorian or salutatorian honors.

### Make-Up Courses

Pupils may make up failed courses through the successful completion of one of the following:

1. A make-up course at an approved summer school.

Admission requirements for summer school are specified as follows:

Summer school is not an option for all pupils. If a pupil is to benefit from a remedial program, he/she must have demonstrated a certain degree of effort and proficiency during the regular school year. Thus, several factors will be used to determine whether or not a pupil may attend summer school. These include:

- a. Attendance - In order to attend summer school, a pupil may not have been absent in excess of thirty days (including excused and unexcused absences) during the regular school year.



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- b. Final Numerical Average - A pupil must attain a final numerical average of at least a fifty percent in order to take a remedial course in summer school.
- c. Teacher Recommendation - Teachers will complete a failure card with recommendations for each pupil who failed their courses. Teachers may recommend that a pupil be permitted or not be permitted to attend summer school regardless of the pupil's attendance and final course average if the teacher believes that circumstances mitigate. All such recommendations must be approved by the pupil's Vice Principal.
- d. Appeal Process - All appeals regarding admission to summer school will be heard first by the pupil's Vice Principal. If the appeal is not resolved at the Vice Principal's level, it may be pursued with the Principal, the Superintendent, and, finally, the Board of Education.
- e. Time Limits - A pupil must take a remedial course during the summer immediately following the year during which the course was failed. The only exceptions would be if more than two courses were failed during the same year or if the pupil needs a specific course in order to overcome credit deficiencies for graduation.

The admission requirements described above apply equally to pupils who enroll in any approved summer school program in any school district.

2. Private tutoring

Administrative procedures governing private tutoring as developed by the Assistant Superintendent and the Building Principals.

3. A make-up course at a local college or university

Administrative procedures governing make-up courses at a local college or university as developed by the Assistant Superintendent and the Building Principals.



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Grades earned during summer make-up work will be reported to the Guidance Department and the Data Center to become part of the pupil's permanent record along with the failing grade.

The requirements outlined in this procedure shall apply to all classified pupils unless expressly stated otherwise in the pupil's individualized educational program. If an educationally handicapped pupil attends a school other than one of the two district high schools which is empowered to grant a diploma, the pupil shall have a choice of receiving the diploma of the school attended or the diploma of the district high school of the attendance area in which the pupil resides in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code.

The Board shall award the same high school diploma regardless of the program of studies completed by the pupil.

Pupils who have not met graduation requirements shall not participate in the graduation ceremony.

Upon written recommendation from the Principal, the Superintendent may exclude a youngster from the graduation ceremony as a disciplinary measure when warranted. An earned diploma shall be made available to the excluded pupil on the next business day following the graduation ceremony provided all other graduation requirements have been met.

## Exemption Of Pupils With Educational Disabilities From Graduation Requirements

### 1. Exemption Rationale

Unless exempted by the Child Study Team with the specific approval of the Superintendent or of the Director or Supervisor of Special Services, an educationally disabled pupil enrolled in the Black Horse Pike Regional School District shall fulfill all of the district's requirements for the following:

- a. Attendance;
- b. Credit hours;
- c. Curriculum proficiencies; and



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- d. Passing scores on the HSPA.

Any exceptions or exemptions and their rationale, must be included in the pupil's IEP. Reasons the Individualized Educational Program goals and objectives do not include proficiencies measured by the HSPA and mastery of curriculum proficiencies also must be incorporated into the IEP in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code.

An educationally disabled pupil shall be exempted from the HSPA and demonstration of mastery of curriculum proficiencies when it can be demonstrated that his/her IEP is characterized by goals and objectives which do not include the range of skills and objectives measured by the HSPA and curriculum proficiencies or if the pupil would be adversely affected by taking the HSPA. These pupils must participate in the Alternate Proficiency Assessment.

2. Procedures for Determining Exemptions

The Child Study Team shall review carefully the educational records of incoming ninth grade pupils to determine if any exemptions from graduation requirements should be granted. The criteria shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Instructional level;
- b. Standardized test scores;
- c. Report cards;
- d. Child Study Team reports;
- e. Teacher reports;
- f. Attendance records;
- g. Medical records; and
- h. Behavioral records.



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After completion of the reviews, pupils who will be placed into one of the following categories:

- a. No exemptions from graduation requirements; or
- b. Exemptions from one or more graduation requirements including HSPA modifications, complete HSPA exemption, and a Special Review Assessment (SRA) because of HSPA failure in grades nine, ten, and eleven.

An educationally disabled pupil who has not been exempted from the proficiencies or has performed below the State minimum levels of pupil proficiency on one or more areas of the State mandated HSPA, shall participate in the SRA in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code.

The IEP for each exempted pupil shall specify each exemption and the alternative proficiencies to be included as replacements of the regular graduation requirements to qualify for the State-endorsed diploma issued by the district.

### 3. Approval of Child Study Team Recommendations

The Superintendent shall designate the Director or Supervisor of Special Services as the staff member responsible for reviewing Child Study Team recommendations for exemptions from graduation requirements and for granting written approval of those recommendations for the record.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq.; 18A:35-1; 18A:35-4.9; 18A:35-7;  
18A:36-17

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1 et seq.; 6A:8-5.1; 6A:8-5.2; 6A:14-4.11 et seq.

Cross reference: Policy Guide Nos. 5200, 5240, 5410, 5465

Adopted: 19 November 2009

