

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Graduation
Code	217
Status	Draft

Purpose

The Board shall establish graduation requirements and acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program by awarding diplomas and certificates at graduation ceremonies.

Authority

The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve in accordance with state law and regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

The Board requires graduation requirements to be published and distributed to students and parents/guardians, and made available in each school building and posted on the district's publicly accessible website. All changes to graduation requirements shall be published and distributed to students and parents/guardians, and made available in each school building and posted on the district's publicly accessible website immediately following approval by the Board.[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

Diplomas

The Board shall award a high school diploma to every student enrolled in this district who meets the requirements for graduation established by this Board.[\[2\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

A student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall not be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure, but the student may be denied participation in the graduation ceremony when personal conduct so warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension.[\[11\]](#)

Students Experiencing Educational Instability -

The district shall provide supports to ensure that students experiencing educational instability graduate in a timely manner, in accordance with law and Board policy. A graduation plan shall be developed to facilitate this process for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) who are experiencing educational instability.[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

Students With Disabilities -

The Board shall permit a student with a disability, whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) prescribes continued educational services, to participate in commencement ceremonies with their graduating class and receive a certificate of attendance, provided that the student has attended four (4) years of high school. The Board shall issue a high school diploma to each student with a disability who completes the graduation requirements established by the Board or the goals established in the student's IEP, as determined by the student's IEP team.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)

Part-Time Students -

A student may qualify for graduation by attending a district school part-time when lawfully employed part-time or when officially enrolled part-time in a postsecondary institution.[\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#)

Full-Time Postsecondary Students -

The fourth year of high school shall not be required for graduation if a student has completed all requirements for graduation and attends a postsecondary institution as a full-time student.[\[21\]](#)[\[22\]](#)

Eligible Veterans -

In order to honor and recognize honorably discharged eligible veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in the military World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War, the Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who meets the applicable requirements of law and completes the required application.[\[6\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for ensuring the following:

1. Publication and distribution of graduation requirements to students and parents/guardians.[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)
2. Counseling of students regarding expectations of graduation requirements.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[16\]](#)
3. Assessment of individual student attainment of academic standards to ensure the student's progress toward achievement of graduation requirements.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[16\]](#)
4. Accurate recording and reporting of each student's progress and accumulation of graduation requirements.[\[10\]](#)[\[23\]](#)
5. Provision of assistance to those students having difficulty attaining the academic standards.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)
6. Development of a list of individuals who qualify for the award of a diploma.
7. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies that appropriately recognize this important achievement.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually, no later than December 1, report to the PA Department of Education (PDE) graduation information and data, as required by law.[\[1\]](#)

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 121](#)

[2. 22 PA Code 4.24](#)

[3. 22 PA Code 4.51](#)

[4. 22 PA Code 4.52](#)

[5. 24 P.S. 510.2](#)

[6. 24 P.S. 1611](#)

[7. 24 P.S. 1613](#)

8. Pol. 102
9. Pol. 127
10. Pol. 212
11. Pol. 233
- [12. 24 P.S. 1331.1](#)
13. Pol. 251
- [14. 24 P.S. 1614](#)
- [15. 22 PA Code 11.27](#)
- [16. 22 PA Code 4.12](#)
- [17. 34 CFR 300.102](#)
- [18. 34 CFR 300.305](#)
19. Pol. 113
- [20. 22 PA Code 11.5](#)
- [21. 22 PA Code 11.8](#)
- [22. 22 PA Code 11.4](#)
23. Pol. 216
- [34 CFR Part 300](#)