

MEDFORD LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION

FILE CODE: 6146

X Monitored

X Mandated

Other Reasons

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/EARLY GRADUATION

The board recognizes the need for a (modest) ceremony to terminate the child's association with the Medford Lakes School District. Care should be taken not to exaggerate the importance of this initial step on the educational ladder. Eligibility for this ceremony shall be based on the recommendation of the professional staff. It is to be clearly understood that attendance at the commencement ceremony is not required in order for the pupil to be promoted to ninth grade. Rather, graduation from the eighth grade shall be regarded as the successful completion of all required proficiencies,. Pupils may be promoted to the ninth grade based on the recommendation of the professional staff, provided that the child's needed level of academic proficiency will be provided by the high school. A pupil on suspension will be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation. Such exclusion shall be subject to the same procedures and guarantees of due process as suspension.

EARLY GRADUATION

Pupils who have clearly demonstrated a scholastic aptitude 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 parents/guardians and the superintendent.

Date Reviewed: December 17, 2008

Adopted: February 18, 2009

Legal References: Use legal reference sheet.

Key Words: High School Graduation, Early Warning Test, HSPT, Graduation, Graduation Requirements

NJSBA POLICY UNIT

New Jersey School Boards Association, P.O. Box 909, Trenton, NJ 08605-0909

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Legal References

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Monitored:

Indicator 3.1(1)(a); procedural guidelines 3.2

Mandated:

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5 requires distribution of the board's policy on graduation requirements to all affected high school pupils and their parents/guardians.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5.1 requires policy on the cost of the graduation ceremony and yearbook for graduating pupils with financial hardships.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9 requires adoption of policy and procedures on promotion and remediation at all levels, K-12; includes indicators of achievement and standards of proficiency.

N.J.A.C. 6:8-7.1 requires policy and procedures addressing district requirements for high school graduation.

N.J.A.C. 6:8-7.1(b) requires the policy to emphasize pupils' meeting or exceeding state minimum standards on the HSPT to qualify for graduation.

N.J.A.C. 6:8-7.1(a)4 requires specific policy language dealing with the exemption of disabled pupils from high school graduation requirements.

N.J.A.C. 6:28-3.6(f)2 makes it clear that a sending K-8 school is also required to address this in policy. This applies to K-6 schools as well, if the seventh grade program to which their pupils are sent is classified as a secondary program.

N.J.A.C. 6:30-3.7 requires a board having an adult high school to adopt adult high school graduation requirements pursuant to law and regulation.

Recommendation:

A policy:

Setting the number of credits the district requires for high school graduation. If this requirement increases per administrative code, this should be made clear;

Directing the superintendent to oversee development of written curriculum including standards of proficiency including but not limited to the core curriculum content standards identified by SDOE and approved by the state board of education, and indicators of achievement for the general student body.

Note that course content will be reviewed per 6140;

Addressing attendance as a factor in awarding course credit; appeals;

Addressing the eighth grade early warning test, HSPT and remediation for pupils not passing;

Addressing alternate methods of acquiring graduation credits;

Addressing the special review process as a means of qualifying for a state-endorsed diploma;

Addressing high school graduation requirements for LEP pupils (address in 6142.2 as well);

Addressing high school graduation requirements for disabled pupils (address in 6171.4 as well);

Addressing reporting statistics.

The policy should direct the superintendent to develop the necessary procedures to implement each section of the policy. Cross reference should be made to all closely related policies, or policies which in themselves should have a high school graduation requirement.

Legal N.J.S.A. 18A:4-25 Prescribing minimum courses of study for public schools; approval of courses of study

References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 Commissioner of education to develop a program of standards and guidelines

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-2 Boards of education; establishment of standards

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5.1 Boards of education prohibited from excluding students from graduation ceremony or from obtaining yearbook for inability to pay fees

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4 Periodic review of curriculum content standard by state board; establishment of thoroughness and efficiency standards and cost per pupil

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-29 Academic achievement reward program

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 et seq. Curriculum and courses

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-17 Credit of seniors in active military and naval service, etc.

N.J.A.C. 6:8-1.1 Words and phrases defined

N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.5 Curriculum and instruction

N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.6 Pupil performance: skills and competencies

N.J.A.C. 6:8-7.1 Promotion, remediation and graduation procedures

N.J.A.C. 6:19-2.3 Commissioner to ensure achievement of the core curriculum content standards

N.J.A.C. 6:28-1.1 et seq. Special education

See particularly:
 N.J.A.C. 6:28-1.4(a)1, -
 3.6(d)5iv, 5v, 5vi, -4.7,
 -4.8

N.J.A.C. 6:30-3.7 Graduation

N.J.A.C. 6:31-1.3 Graduation requirements for pupils of limited English proficiency

New Jersey State Board of Education Resolution, March 3, 1984, strengthens graduation requirements for pupils with limited English proficiency.

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (June 1993)

Possible Cross References:

- *1120 Board of education meetings
- *5113 Absences and excuses
- *5120 Assessment of individual needs
- *5127 Commencement activities
- *6010 Goals and objectives
- *6140 Curriculum adoption
- 6141.4 Independent study
- *6142 Subject fields
- *6142.2 English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural
- *6142.6 Basic skills
- *6145 Extracurricular activities
- *6147 Standards of proficiency
- *6154 Homework/makeup work
- *6171.4 Special education
- *6200 Adult/community education

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual