

**North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District**  
Annandale, NJ  
November 14, 2017  
First Reading Board Policies

The following policies are presented for the first reading – (P) denotes policy, (M) denotes mandatory:

First Reading of Policies:

P 2415.04	Title I – District-Wide Parental Involvement (M) (Revised)
P 2416	Programs for Pregnant Students (M) (New)
P 2421	Vocational-Technical Education (Revised)
P 2560	Live Animals in School (Revised)
P 2631	NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (New)
P 5460	High School Graduation (Revised)

## **2415.04 TITLE I – DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT (M)**

### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

The school district will incorporate this District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy into its school district's plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.

In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the school district's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the New Jersey Department of Education.

In the event the school district is required to reserve and spend at least one percent of the district's Title I, Part A allocation, the school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how these funds will be spent and will ensure that not less than ninety-five percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects Title I schools in the district will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring-

1. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
2. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

3. That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
4. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

In the event the State of New Jersey or the New Jersey Department of Education has a Parental Information and Resource Center, the school district will inform parents and parental organizations of its purpose and existence.

#### DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Below is a description of how the district will implement or accomplish each of the following components outlined below (Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA):

1. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:
  - a. Parents will be informed by Title I school Principal of a meeting to develop the school-parent-student compact.
2. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - a. Parents will be informed by Title I school Principal of a meeting to develop the school-parent-student compact.
3. The district will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
  - a. The school will host an annual parent information session.
4. The school district will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parental Involvement Policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its Parental Involvement Policy and activities to design strategies

for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

(List actions, such as describing how the evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents will play):

- a. The Principal and parents will discuss the evaluation conducted by the Principal at the annual meeting.

The school district will build the school's and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

1. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described below:
  - New Jersey's academic content standards;
  - New Jersey's student academic achievement standards;
  - The New Jersey and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
  - The requirements of Part A;
  - How to monitor their child's progress; and
  - How to work with educators.

(List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, including any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success.)

- a. The forementioned topics will be discussed at the annual meeting with the Principal.
2. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
    - a. The forementioned topics will be discussed at the annual meeting with the Principal.

3. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, student services personnel, Principals and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
  - a. Providing Title I teachers and administrators with the opportunity to attend workshops and conferences related to Title I.
4. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
  - a. If appropriate, and realistic, documents can be translated upon request.

Adopted: January 2007

Revised:

## **2416 PROGRAMS FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS (M)**

No student, married or unmarried, who is otherwise eligible for enrollment in this district will be denied an educational program because of pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy-related disabilities, or actual or potential parenthood.

The Board of Education reserves the right to require as a prerequisite for participation in the regular instructional program and in the co-curricular program that a pregnant student present to the school Principal her physician's written statement that such participation will not be injurious to her health or jeopardize her pregnancy.

The Superintendent shall develop a program of special instruction in health and nutrition and shall direct appropriate teaching staff members to counsel the pregnant student, to assist her in securing necessary medical services, to cooperate with community resources on her behalf, and to encourage her toward the completion of an appropriate educational program.

A pregnant student who does not wish to attend regular classes or is physically unable to do so during her pregnancy may, with her consent, be assigned to an alternate instructional program which may include home instruction or a program offered by another school district or institution.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pregnant student under eighteen years of age shall be notified of any change in the student's regular educational program.

A student who has received an alternate instructional program for reasons associated with pregnancy shall be readmitted to the regular program upon her request and the written statement of her physician that she is physically fit for attendance.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7

Adopted:

## **2421 VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

The Board of Education provides a program(s) of vocational-technical education. The purpose of the vocational-technical education program is to develop the academic, vocational, and technical skills of students who elect to enroll in vocational-technical education programs preparing the students for career preparation, gainful employment, lifelong learning, training supplemental to daily employment, and productive citizenship.

The Board provides a program of vocational-technical education with students guaranteed the right to apply and, if accepted, to attend a county vocational school. The district will provide county vocational school representatives a reasonable opportunity, during school hours, to present information about the county vocational school program to students in grades nine through twelve.

All students participating in vocational-technical education programs within this district or in shared-time vocational-technical programs are considered to be regularly enrolled in the schools of this district and are subject to the policies and rules of this Board. No student shall be denied admission or participation in any vocational-technical education programs due to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, social or economic status, or disability.

Students may be permitted to enroll in programs of vocational instruction offered by other local school districts if the Board approves the payment of the tuition and transportation costs and does not offer an identical type of program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:19-3.1(b).

The district will comply with the general program requirements for vocational-technical education as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:19-5.2 et seq. Students participating in part-time school and part-time employment vocational-technical programs will not be exploited, illegally employed, or employed under conditions that fail to safeguard the student's health and interest. These students shall receive wages commensurate with wages paid to other employees for similar work and shall be protected by provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act and any other acts of the State pertaining to such training and employment.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations that ensure vocational-technical education programs established in the district are conducted within the framework of the State's Plan for Vocational and Technical Education approved by the New Jersey State Board of Education and accepted by the United States Department of Education.

The Superintendent shall seek and utilize all available Federal, State, and private sources of revenue for the financial support of vocational-technical education programs in the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.2; 18A:38-15; 18A:54-1.1 et seq.  
N.J.A.C. 6A:19-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: May 1, 2001  
Revised:



## 2560 LIVE ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

The Board of Education recognizes the appropriate use of live animals as instructional resources can enrich the educational program. The observation and nurture of live animals can help children learn specific biological and behavioral principles and gain respect for all living things.

A staff member who uses live animals shall observe proper precautions for the safety of ~~pupils~~ students and the animals. The Principal or designee must approve a live animal being brought into the school building and the use of any animal in a course of instruction or the establishment of an animal habitat in a classroom.

Any animal used in school must have been lawfully acquired in accordance with applicable State law and local ordinance. An animal susceptible to rabies must have been vaccinated against rabies and proof of such vaccination must be included with the request to bring a live animal into the school submitted to the Principal or designee before a live animal is brought onto school grounds or into a school building. No animal shall be permitted in any area of the school where a ~~pupil~~ student who is allergic to the animal might be exposed to the animal.

A teacher or other qualified adult must assume primary responsibility for the animal, its nourishment, and its sanitary living conditions. The staff member in charge must make proper arrangements for the animal's care and feeding over weekends, holidays, and school vacation periods.

No experiment that deprives a living animal of nourishment or exposes the animal to harm shall be conducted.

A ~~pupil-student~~ in grades nine through twelve may refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture, or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of a course of instruction. In the event the school program will require any such activities, the school will notify the ~~pupil~~ student and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) at the beginning of each school year of the right to decline participation in such activities. Within two weeks of the receipt of the notice from the school, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall notify the school if the right to decline participation in such activities will be exercised. Any ~~pupil-student~~ who chooses to refrain from participation in or observation of such activities shall be offered an alternative education project for the purpose of providing the ~~pupil-student~~ with the factual knowledge, information, or experience required by the course of study. A ~~pupil-student~~ may refuse to participate in an alternative education project which involves or necessitates any harmful use of an animal or animal part(s). A ~~pupil-student~~ shall not be discriminated against, in grading or in any other manner, based upon a decision to exercise the rights afforded pursuant to this act.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.25

Adopted:

## **2631 NEW JERSEY QUALITY SINGLE ACCOUNTABILITY CONTINUUM (QSAC)**

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools will work with the New Jersey Department of Education to comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) system in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. QSAC is the New Jersey Department of Education monitoring and evaluating system for public school districts. Public school districts in New Jersey are evaluated in five key component areas of school effectiveness – instruction and program, personnel, fiscal management, operations, and governance – to determine the extent to which the school district is providing a thorough and efficient education.

Weighted quality performance indicators established by the Department of Education shall be used by the Commissioner of Education to assess school district performance and capacity during the comprehensive reviews pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.1 through 3.4, the in-depth evaluation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.3, and monitoring of an approved QSAC district improvement plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.6. The weighted quality performance indicators shall also be used by the Commissioner in determining whether to initiate intervention activities pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.2, withdrawal from intervention pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1, and initial placement of Level II, Level III, and State-Operated School Districts on the performance continuum pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-8.3.

The Commissioner shall conduct a comprehensive review of each public school district every three years. In the intervening years, the Commissioner shall assess the school district's performance to determine whether conditions exist in the school district that significantly and negatively impact the educational program or operations of the school district.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for completing the District Performance Review in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2. The District Performance Review and a Statement of Assurance prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(e) shall be approved by the Board of Education by resolution and submitted to the County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(f) and (g). The district's District Performance Review and the Statement of Assurance will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.3. The Commissioner shall issue a final determination of the school district's performance and initial placement on the performance continuum in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-4.1.

The district will be required to commence improvement activities as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.3 through 5.7 in the event it satisfies less than eighty percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in one or more key components of school district effectiveness. Where appropriate, pursuant to the factors as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.2, the Commissioner may

seek forms of partial or full intervention in a school district as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.1 et seq. Withdrawal from partial or full State intervention shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7 et seq.

No provision of N.J.A.C. 6A:30 – Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts, shall limit the ability of the Department to monitor public school districts' practices by, among other things, conducting on-site visits to observe instructional practices and school facilities or take other such action as in the judgment of the Commissioner or his/her designee that may be warranted to ensure the satisfaction of any statutory or constitutional obligation.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-3 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq.

Adopted:

## **5460 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

The Board of Education will recognize the successful completion of the secondary school instructional program by the award of a State-endorsed diploma certifying the student has met all State and local requirements for high school graduation. The Board will annually certify to the Executive County Superintendent each student who has been awarded a diploma has met the requirements for graduation.

### **A. High School Graduation Requirements**

A graduating student must have earned a minimum of 120 credits in courses designed to meet all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) including, but not limited to, the following credits:

1. Twenty credits in English language arts aligned to grade nine through twelve standards;
2. Fifteen credits in mathematics, including Algebra I or the content equivalent; geometry or the content equivalent; and a third year of mathematics that builds on the concepts and skills of algebra and geometry and that prepares students for college and 21st century careers;
3. Fifteen credits in social studies, including satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 18A:35-2; five credits in world history; and the integration of civics, economics, geography, and global content in all course offerings;
4. Fifteen credits in science, including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent; one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course, which shall include chemistry, environmental science, or physics; and one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course;
5. Five credits in health, safety, and physical education during each year of enrollment, distributed as one hundred fifty minutes per week, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, -7 and -8;
6. Five credits in visual and performing arts;
7. Five credits in world languages or student demonstration of proficiency as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2ii(2);
8. Two and one-half credits in financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy;
9. Technological literacy, consistent with the NJSLs, integrated throughout the curriculum;
10. Five credits in 21st century life and careers, or career-technical education; and
11. Electives as determined by the high school program sufficient to total a minimum of 120 credits.

As defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.3, “credit” means the award for the equivalent of a class period of instruction which meets for a minimum of forty minutes, one time per week during the school year or as approved through N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2.

The high school graduation credit requirement may be met in whole or in part through program completion of a range of experiences that enable students to pursue a variety of personalized learning opportunities, as follows:

1. The district shall establish a process to approve individualized student learning opportunities that meet or exceed the NJSLs.
  - a. Individualized student learning opportunities in all NJSLs areas include, but are not limited, to the following:
    - (1) Independent study;
    - (2) Online learning;
    - (3) Study abroad programs;
    - (4) Student exchange programs; and
    - (5) Structured learning experiences, including, but not limited to, work-based programs, internships, apprenticeships, and service learning experiences.
  - b. Individualized student learning opportunities based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the NJSLs shall:
    - (1) Be based on student interest and career goals as reflected in the Personalized Student Learning Plans;
    - (2) Include demonstration of student competency;
    - (3) Be certified for completion based on the district process adopted according to 2. below; and
    - (4) Be on file in the school district and subject to review by the Commissioner or designee.
  - c. Group programs based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the NJSLs shall be permitted and shall be approved in the same manner as other approved courses.
2. The district shall establish a process for granting of credits through successful completion of assessments that verify student achievement in meeting or exceeding the NJSLs at the high school level, including standards achieved by means of the individualized student learning opportunities enumerated as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2. Such programs or assessments may occur all or in part prior to a student's high school enrollment; no such locally administered assessments shall preclude or exempt student participation in applicable Statewide assessments at grades three through twelve.
  - a. The district shall choose assessments that are aligned with or exceed the NJSLs and may include locally designed assessments.
  - b. The district 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 NJSLs:

- (1) The Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) online assessment;
  - (2) The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI); or
  - (3) Department of Education-approved locally designed competency-based assessments.
3. The district shall establish a process to approve post-secondary learning opportunities that may consist of: Advanced Placement (AP) courses; College-Level Examination Program (CLEP); or concurrent/dual enrollment at accredited higher education institutions.
- a. The district shall award credit for successful completion of an approved, accredited college course that assures achievement of knowledge and skills that meets or exceeds the NJSLs.

## **B. Special Situations**

### **1. High School Enrollment by Elementary Pupils**

- a. Elementary school pupils wishing to enroll in courses at the high school must apply to the Principal. The Principal shall admit pupils based on available space and documentation of the student's ability to successfully complete the course work.
- b. Courses eligible for graduation credit may not be duplicates of courses already offered by the student's elementary district.
- c. The high school will provide transportation when class time coincides with existing bus schedules.
- d. Elementary school pupils successfully completing courses at the high school shall have credit awarded toward the high school diploma.

### **2. Elementary School Courses**

High school level courses taken before 9th grade in which individual pupils demonstrate competency need not be retaken in high school. Such courses shall be shown on the transcript of the student but will not be counted toward the total credits needed for graduation.

### **3. Transfer Pupils**

Pupils transferring into the district whose required credits for graduation in the former district were fewer than those in the North Hunterdon-Voorhees District shall have their transcript evaluated by the Principal. If necessary, an appropriate adjustment may be made based upon the requirements of the former school district.

### **4. Minimum Course Load**

All pupils will be required to enroll for thirty-five credits each year. Principals may reduce this requirement to thirty credits, for those seniors without study time during the school day and for those taking two or more Advanced Placement courses. Waiver of this requirement may also be granted to any student when the Principal determines a full credit load would constitute a hardship for the pupil.

### **C. Additional Graduation Requirements**

1. Attendance requirements as indicated in Policy and Regulation 5200;
2. ~~Completion of 2.5 credit course in Communication and Digital Literacy (formerly Advanced Academic Literacy)~~
3. Any statutorily mandated requirements for earning a high school diploma; and
4. Any Statewide assessment graduation requirements as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and as outlined in D. below.

### **D. Statewide Assessment Graduation Requirements**

1. The requirement that all students demonstrate proficiency in the high school end-of-course Partnership for Assessments for Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment in ELA 10 and Algebra I, or through the alternate means set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f) through (i);
2. The Board of Education will provide students who have not demonstrated proficiency on the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments in ELA 10 and Algebra I with the opportunity to demonstrate such competence through one of the alternate means set forth below:
  - a. For the graduating classes of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, students who do not take both the ELA 10 and the Algebra I end-of-course PARCC assessments or who take, but do not achieve a passing score on both assessments, as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6, may satisfy the State requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and mathematics in one of the following ways:
    - i. Achieve a passing score, as determined by the Commissioner, on a corresponding substitute competency test in English language arts and/or mathematics, as applicable, or substitute a passing score on another end-of-course PARCC assessment, including ELA 9, ELA 11, Geometry, or Algebra II; or
    - ii. Meet the criteria of the portfolio appeals process; and
  - b. For the graduating class of 2020, students who take all applicable high school end-of-course PARCC assessments for all courses in which they are enrolled, including those students who received a waiver for ELA 11 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c)3i, as of September 6, 2016, and thereafter, but do not achieve a passing score on both the ELA 10 and Algebra I end-of-course PARCC assessments pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6, may satisfy the State requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and mathematics in one of the following ways:
    - i. Achieve a passing score, as determined by the Commissioner, on a corresponding substitute competency test in English language arts and/or mathematics, as applicable, or substitute a passing score on another end-of-course PARCC assessment, including ELA 9, ELA 11, Geometry, or Algebra II; or
    - ii. Meet the criteria of the portfolio appeals process.
3. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, students who take all applicable high school end-of-course PARCC assessments for all courses in which they are enrolled,

including those students who received a waiver for ELA 11 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c)3i, as of September 6, 2016, and thereafter, but do not receive a passing score on both the ELA 10 and Algebra I end-of-course PARCC assessments pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6, by the conclusion of their senior year and after multiple opportunities to take the assessments, may satisfy the State requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and mathematics by meeting the criteria of the portfolio appeals process.

4. In accordance with a NJDOE Memorandum dated January 24, 2017, students in the graduating cohort of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to September 6, 2016 and:

- a. Took the PARCC Algebra I assessment, but did not pass and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g. Geometry or Algebra II); or
- b. Did not receive a valid test score, but are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g. Geometry or Algebra II); or
- c. Did not have an opportunity to take the PARCC Algebra I assessment because the NJDOE did not offer a summer test administration, but are now in advanced mathematics course (e.g. Geometry or Algebra II). Only students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 described in the three specific groups above in a., b., or c. are eligible to utilize the following pathways to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics:
  - i. Take or retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment and pass; or
  - ii. Utilize the NJDOE portfolio appeals process, provided they take the PARCC Geometry assessment and the PARCC Algebra II assessment (if enrolled in the Algebra II course) and receive valid scores; or
  - iii. Take and pass the Geometry or Algebra II assessment.

5. All English Language Learners (ELLs) shall satisfy the requirements for high school graduation, except ELLs may demonstrate they have attained State minimum levels of proficiency through passage of the portfolio appeals process in their native language, when available, and passage of a Department of Education-approved English fluency assessment.

6. Students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who participate in the alternative assessment for students with disabilities are not required to participate in repeated administration of high school end-of-course PARCC assessments.

## **E. Attendance**

Regular attendance is required for the successful completion of a course of study and graduation. Students are expected to be present in every scheduled class except as their attendance is excused in accordance with Board Policy 5200. A student absent from class scheduled for a course of study more than eighteen days in any one school year, nine days in any one semester, or five days in any one quarter, on which the class meets shall not receive credit for that course except that a student whose absence is for good cause and has demonstrated the required proficiencies may apply for and receive course credit notwithstanding an excessive number of absences.



## **F. Students with Disabilities**

1. Through the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11 - Graduation, the district may specify alternate requirements for a State-endorsed diploma for individual students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3.
  - a. The district shall specifically address any alternate requirements for graduation in a student's IEP, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11.
  - b. The district shall develop and implement procedures for assessing whether a student with a disability has met the specified alternate requirements for graduation individually determined in an IEP.
2. If a student with a disability attends a school other than that of the school district of residence, which is empowered to grant a diploma, the student shall have the choice of receiving the diploma of the school attended or the diploma of the school district of residence.
  - a. If the school the student is attending declines to issue a diploma to the student, the district of residence Board of Education shall issue the student a diploma if the student has satisfied all State and local graduation requirements, as specified in the student's IEP.
3. If the Board of Education grants an elementary school diploma, a student with a disability who fulfills the requirements of his or her IEP shall qualify for and receive a diploma.
4. Students with disabilities who meet the standards for graduation according to the school district's graduation requirements shall have the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises and related activities on a nondiscriminatory basis.
5. A student with a disability whose IEP prescribes continued special education programs beyond the fourth year of high school shall be permitted to participate in commencement ceremonies with his/her graduating class and shall receive a certificate of attendance, provided the student has attended four years of high school.
6. When a student with a disability graduates or exceeds the age of eligibility, the student shall be provided a written summary of his or her academic achievement and functional performance prior to the date of the student's graduation or the conclusion of the school year in which he or she exceeds the age of eligibility. The summary shall include recommendations to assist the child in meeting his or her postsecondary goals.

## **G. High School Diploma**

1. The Board of Education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to prospective graduates who have met all of the requirements adopted in accordance with State and local Board of Education requirements.
2. The Board of Education shall not issue a high school diploma to any student not meeting the criteria specified in State and local requirements.

- a. The district shall provide students exiting grade twelve without a diploma the opportunity for continued high school enrollment to age twenty, or until the requirements for a State-endorsed diploma have been met, whichever comes first.
  - b. The district shall allow any out-of-school individual to age twenty who has otherwise met all State and local graduation requirements, but has failed to pass the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments to demonstrate proficiency as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f) pursuant to the standards applicable to the student's graduating class. Students in graduating classes prior to 2016 shall demonstrate proficiency as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f)1. Upon certification of passing the test applicable to the student's class in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8, a State-endorsed diploma shall be granted by the high school of record.
3. The Commissioner of Education shall award a State-issued high school diploma in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2(c) and (d).
  4. The Board of Education shall award a State-endorsed high school diploma to any currently enrolled student, regardless of grade level, who:
    - a. Has demonstrated proficiency in the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments in ELA 10 and Algebra I, or as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f);
    - b. Has presented official transcripts showing at least thirty general education credits leading to a degree at an accredited institution of higher education; and
    - c. Has formally requested such early award of a State-endorsed high school diploma.

#### **H. Notification**

Each student who enters or transfers into the high school and the student's parent(s) will be provided a copy of the school district's requirements for a State-endorsed diploma, and the programs available to assist students in attaining the State-endorsed diploma, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5.

#### **I. Reporting**

The Superintendent, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-7 and 18A:7E-3, shall report annually to the Board of Education at a public meeting not later than September 30, and to the Commissioner of Education:

1. The total number of students graduated;
2. The number of students graduated under the substitute competency test process;
3. The number of students graduated under the portfolio appeals process;
4. The number of students receiving State-endorsed high school diplomas as a result of meeting any alternative requirements for graduation as specified in their IEP's;
5. The total number of students denied graduation from the twelfth grade class; and
6. The number of students denied graduation from the twelfth grade class solely because of failure to pass the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments, substitute competency tests, or portfolio appeals process based on the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8.

J. The Superintendent shall provide to the Executive County Superintendent the district's graduation requirements each year they are evaluated through the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) and update the filed copy each time the graduation policy is revised.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1; 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.

Adopted: October 20, 2009

Revised: May 12, 2015, May 10, 2016, September 20, 2016, May 9, 2017

**NORTH HUNTERDON VOORHEES SCHOOL DISTRICT**