

Series 600 – Educational Program

Policy Title: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
605.4

Policy Code No.

Students must successfully complete the required courses of study prior to graduation as determined by the State Department of Education and the Board of Directors.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or designee to ensure that students complete grades one through twelve and that high school students complete the required credits prior to graduation.

Starting with the Class of 2011, students entering Newton High School will have a core curriculum plan guiding them toward the goal of successfully completing the district core curriculum. The district will annually report on progress toward student completion of the core curriculum plan.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS:

Class of 2008-2010

Diploma from:	Newton HS	Basics & Beyond
Curriculum Area:		
Language Arts	8	8
Mathematics	4	4
Science	4	4
Social Studies	5	5
Physical Education	4	4
Health	1	1
Computer Skills	0	1
Careers	0	2
Independent Living	0	1
Effective Credits	26	8
Total Credits	52	38

Class of 2011 Onward

Diploma from:	Newton HS	Basics & Beyond
Curriculum Area:		
Language Arts	8	8
Mathematics	6	6
Science	6	6
Social Studies	6	6
Physical Education	4	4

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Health	1	1
Computer Skills	0	1
Careers	0	2
Independent Living	0	1
Effective Credits	21	3
Total Credits	52	40

Notes

- 1 Includes one credit in Speech, two credits in English I or Enhanced English I, two credits in English II or Enhanced English II, one credit in Writing, and one credit in Literature.
- 2 One of the four credits may be earned by taking Business Math or two semesters of Basic Business from the Business Education Department.
- 3 Beginning with the Class of 2011, American Studies, U.S. History and U.S. Government are required. One additional Social Studies credit must be from a Behavioral Studies Group and one from a World Studies Group.
- 4 Physical Education graduation credits will not be waived for early graduation.
- 5 Includes three years of Math and Science.

A student will not be allowed to graduate with fewer than the required credits without the approval of the Board of Directors. Special education students must meet individual graduation requirements as stated in their individual education plans. The Board of Directors shall have complete discretion to determine extraordinary circumstances.

The required courses of study will be reviewed by the Board of Directors every year.

Diploma Requirements

The Newton Community School District will offer its graduates diplomas from either Newton Senior High School or from Basics and Beyond High School if they have met the respective school's requirements as approved by the Board of Directors.

To receive a Newton Senior High School diploma, students must meet the credit requirements listed above, have earned at least 5 credits from Newton Senior High School, and meet one of the following

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enrollment conditions:

1. Be enrolled in and attend classes at Newton High School carrying at least 5 credits during the student's last semester prior to graduation.
2. Be enrolled in and attend classes at Basics and Beyond High School during the student's last trimester prior to graduation and use no more than 26 credits earned at Basics and Beyond High School to meet the Newton Senior High School graduation requirements.

To receive a Basics and Beyond High School diploma, students must meet the credit requirements listed above and have earned at least 2 credits from Basics and Beyond High School during the student's last trimester prior to graduation.

When deemed appropriate by a special education student's IEP team, that student may be allowed to complete all of his/her credits at Newton High School, therefore waiving the 2 credit requirement at Basics and Beyond High School.

Exceptions to the diploma enrollment requirements may be considered in cases of extreme hardship, serious medical conditions or significant unusual circumstances. These exceptions must be agreed upon by both the principal of Newton Senior High School and the director of Basics & Beyond High School. Should the principal and director not agree, the superintendent or designee shall render a decision.

Date of Adoption	08/14/1989
Review Date	08/13/2007
Revision Date	04/26/2010

Legal Ref.: Iowa Code §§256.11, 279.8, 280.3, .14. 281
Iowa Admin. Code 12.2, 4.3(7), 4.5

Cross Ref.: Board Policy
501 Student Attendance
602.6 Special Education
602.6 R3 Integration of Disabled Students
602.15 At-Risk Programs
602.17 Alternative Educational Programs
605.1 Reports of Student Progress
605.5 Early Graduation