

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal. The Brunswick School Board has adopted a proficiency-based system of learning consistent with Maine law and the Brunswick School Department 21st Century Learning Expectations, which means that after July 1, 2020, the awarding of a diploma will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas and Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results.

To be awarded a high school diploma from the Brunswick School Department, students graduating in the Class of 2021 and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in the content areas identified in Maine's system of Learning Results, meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results, and fulfill all additional graduation requirements set by the Brunswick School Board. Students graduating in the Classes of 2015-2020 must meet the credit and other graduation requirements specified in this policy.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook. The Board has approved the following schedule of requirements for graduation, which includes minimum requirements specified by the State of Maine. This policy shall be reviewed on a yearly basis, or more often if necessary, to be revised as needed.

The Board expects the Superintendent/designee to inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

### **Diploma Requirements for Students Graduating in the Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020:**

The following minimum requirements represent a basic program through which a student may earn a diploma from Brunswick High School: (21½ credits required)

English 4 credits

Mathematics 3 credits

Science 2 credits (1 Science course must be a laboratory course)

Social Studies 3 credits

Physical Education 1 credit  
Health .5 credit  
Fine Arts 1 credit  
Electives 7 credits

In addition to the 21½ credits, each student must meet computer proficiency standards as established by the school. Students must also complete a community service requirement for graduation as outlined in FILE IKF-R. Maine Studies is required of all students who have not completed this state requirement.

All students at Brunswick High School are eligible to receive special recognition for academic achievement. To attain honor roll status, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of five classes and pass each class with a grade of 80% or better. In addition, graduating seniors may be recognized by their class rank based upon a weighted grade point average calculated after seven semesters.

#### **MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

All students must be enrolled in a minimum of five courses or their equivalent, exclusive of physical education. Students are strongly encouraged to carry five (5) full credit courses or their equivalent. The Principal may waive this requirement when in his/her judgment extenuating circumstances warrant such a waiver.

#### **ALTERNATIVE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Students placed in Alternative and Special Education programs shall be required to meet the basic requirements of this Policy. However, the means of attainment of the requirements shall be in accordance with an Individualized Alternative Educational Plan or Individualized Educational Plan. The Principal of the school shall be responsible for the development of procedures and guidelines which assure that Alternative Education and Special Education programs meet State requirements.

#### **INCOMING TRANSFER STUDENTS**

The Principal shall establish specific, written procedures for the review of transcripts for students who transfer to Brunswick High School after grade 9. It is the intent of the Board that transfer students meet all requirements of this policy. After review of the transcript, however, the Principal may waive certain requirements for transfer students if he/she deems it is in the best interest of the student to do so. In such cases, a course load consistent with that of the student's peers will be designed.

#### **Diploma Requirements for Students Graduating in the Class of 2021 and Beyond:**

In accordance with Maine law and the Brunswick School Department proficiency-based system of learning, after July 1, 2020, the awarding of a diploma from Brunswick High School will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas of

Maine's system of Learning results and meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results. The student must also fulfill any other requirements specified in this policy. Students who anticipate graduating in the Classes of 2021 and beyond must meet the following requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in meeting standards in the following content areas of the Learning Results. Meeting the standards entails demonstrating proficiency for each priority standard within the content areas.

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies
- Health Education and Physical Education
- Visual and Performing Arts
- World Languages
- Career and Education Development (embedded in the other content areas)

2. Demonstrate proficiency in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results which are embedded within the course offerings and alternative pathways.

- Clear and effective communicator;
- Self-directed and lifelong learner;
- Creative and analytical problem solver;
- Responsible and involved citizen; and an
- Integrative and informed thinker.

3. All students, regardless of pathway, will be required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of approved community service hours as outlined in FILE: IKF-R prior to graduation.

4. All students must be enrolled in a minimum of six courses or their equivalent. The Principal may waive this requirement when in his/her judgment extenuating circumstances warrant such a waiver.

### **Multiple Pathways to the Awarding of a Proficiency-Based Diploma:**

The Brunswick School Departments high school educational program is designed to enable students to satisfy graduation requirements in four years through a combination of a sequence of courses, learning experiences or integrated equivalents providing

opportunities to gain and demonstrate proficiency in all of the content areas of the Learning Results and in the cross- content Guiding Principles of the Learning Results.

Beginning with the class of 2021, a student may earn a diploma from Brunswick High School within a four year period by following a traditional pathway, demonstrating proficiency by earning (21.5) credits or by demonstrating proficiency in the content areas through any combination of multiple pathways.

A. For example, students following a traditional (21.5) credit pathway may engage in the following course of studies:

<i>Area of Study</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
<i>English/Language Arts</i>	<i>Earn 4 credits thereby demonstrating proficiency in the English/Language Arts standards.</i>
<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Earn 3 credits thereby demonstrating proficiency in the Social Studies standards.</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Earn 3 credits thereby demonstrating proficiency in the Mathematics standards.</i>
<i>Science / Technology</i>	<i>Earn 2 credits in Science, one of which must be a laboratory course, and 1 additional credit in either Science or Technology, thereby demonstrating proficiency in the Science standards.</i>
<i>Physical Education</i>	<i>Earn 1 credit thereby demonstrating proficiency in Physical Education standards.</i>
<i>World Language</i>	<i>Demonstrate proficiency in World Language priority standards, *this requirement will apply beginning with the graduating class of 2025.</i>
<i>Visual and Performing Arts</i>	<i>Earn 1 credit thereby demonstrating proficiency in Visual and Performing Arts standards.</i>
<i>Health</i>	<i>Earn .5 credits thereby demonstrating proficiency in the Health standards.</i>

<i>Electives</i>	<i>Earn 6 credits thereby demonstrating proficiency in the interdisciplinary standards and expectations of the courses selected</i>
<i>Educational Experiences</i>	<i>Students will be required to engage in educational activities related to English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Technology.</i>

Students following the traditional pathway are expected to be enrolled in the equivalent of at least six full year courses in each of their high school years, not inclusive of Physical Education, and must engage courses or learning experiences that integrate career and education development into other content areas of the Learning Results.

B. Students may also demonstrate proficiency in the content areas through multiple additional pathways, including but not limited to any combination of:

- Traditional coursework as outlined in A above
- Early college/dual enrollment courses
- Career and technical education programming
- Online/virtual learning
- Apprenticeships, internships and/or field work
- Community service
- Exchange programs
- Independent study
- Alternative education/“At Risk” programming
- Adult education

Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to the school unit’s own course offerings. In order to pursue one or more of the multiple/alternative pathways, a student must have a Personal Learning Plan detailing how the pathway will provide exposure to the content standards of the Learning Results and how the student will demonstrate proficiency in meeting the standards. The Personal Learning Plan must be approved by the Department Chair and at least one teacher of the content area for which the student is seeking credit, and the student’s guidance counselor. All appeals shall be directed to the school Principal, and his or her decision shall be considered final.

**Additional Considerations Applicable to the Awarding of a Brunswick High School Diploma beginning with the class of 2021:**

**A. Students Receiving Special Education Services**

Students who achieve proficiency in the content standards of the Learning Results and Guiding Principles, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will be awarded diplomas.

**B. Transfer Students**

For students who transfer to Brunswick High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to be aligned with the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the High School Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards meeting graduation requirements.

**C. Home-schooled Students**

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Brunswick High School, The Brunswick High School Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements, and in accordance with Brunswick Policy IHBG.

**D. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas**

A student who leaves Brunswick High School to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may upon satisfactory completion of the freshman year be awarded a high school diploma.

**E. Early Awarding of Diplomas**

A student who has met the State's and the Brunswick School Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.

F. All students at Brunswick High School are eligible to receive special recognition for academic achievement. To attain honor roll status, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 classes and pass each class with a grade of 80% or better. In addition, graduating seniors may be recognized by their class rank based upon a weighted grade point average calculated after seven semesters.

**G. Extended Study**

Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year. Students

eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other resources suitable to young learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

*Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722 Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)*

*Cross Reference: FILE IKF-R; FILE IHBG*

*Procedures for Incoming Transfer Students*

*Procedure for Alternative and Special Education Students High School course description booklet*

*Adopted: 3/21/78*

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