

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

~~Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a Cape Elizabeth diploma in order to plan an appropriate and sequential educational program to meet that goal.~~

~~The Cape Elizabeth School Department (CESD) is in the process of implementing proficiency-based education and transitioning, over a period of five year, from traditional graduation requirements to proficiency-based diploma requirements. When fully implemented, these new diploma requirements will require students to demonstrate proficiency in the content areas and Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results and to fulfill all additional graduation requirements set by the Board.~~

~~Students graduating in the Classes of 2018-2020 must meet the credit and other graduation requirements specified in Part I of this policy. A student who would have graduated with the Class of 2020 and been awarded a diploma at commencement but for his/her failure to earn sufficient credit or meet other requirements set by Board policy will have until December 31, 2020 to fulfill the graduation requirements applicable to the Class of 2020.~~

~~The transition to proficiency-based diploma requirements will begin with the Class of 2021 and be completed with the Class of 2025.~~

The graduation requirements of the Cape Elizabeth School Department (CESD) are designed to ensure that students demonstrate proficiency to the content standards and Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results prior to earning a diploma.

Students demonstrate proficiency by earning credit for courses and other approved learning experiences whose curricula are aligned to the content standards and Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results.

~~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/guardians prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. These requirements shall also be included in the high school student handbook.~~

~~The Board has approved the following minimum requirements for graduation, which include the requirements specified by the State of Maine. The Board is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change, and 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.~~

~~I.—DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASSES OF 2018, 2019, OR 2020~~

~~Students who anticipate graduating in the Classes of 2018, 2019, or 2020 must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma.~~

~~A. The student must successfully complete a total of **230** credits. Of these credits,~~

~~**125** must be those specified by the State of Maine. They are:~~

- ~~1. English/Language Arts—40 credits;~~
- ~~2. Mathematics—20 credits;~~
- ~~3. Social Studies, including one year of American History and Government—20 credits;~~
- ~~4. Science, including at least one year of laboratory study—20 credits;~~
- ~~5. Visual and Performing Arts, which may include art, music, or theater—10 credits;~~
- ~~6. Health—5 credits; and~~
- ~~7. Physical Education—10 credits.~~

~~B. In addition to the State requirements, the student must meet the following additional credit requirements established by the Board:~~

- ~~1. Math—10 additional credits for a total of 30 credits;~~
- ~~2. Science—10 additional credits for a total of 30 credits, including credits in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, unless alternative credit arrangements in Science are approved by the Principal;~~
- ~~3. Social Studies—10 additional credits for a total of 30 credits, including 15 credits in World History, unless alternative credit arrangements in Social Studies are approved by the Principal;~~
- ~~4. Technology—5 credits;~~
- ~~5. Visual and Performing Arts or Technology—5 credits; and~~
- ~~6. Electives—65 credits.~~

~~C. The remaining credits may be selected by the student based on the student's interests, satisfaction of course prerequisites, and requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.~~

~~D. A student who wishes to meet these requirements through alternative means or is deficient in these requirements may earn and apply credits following prior written approval from the Department Chair, School Counselor, and Principal. A student who makes up the deficiencies may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of all graduation requirements.~~

~~II.—DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASS OF 2021 AND BEYOND~~

~~In accordance with Maine law and Cape Elizabeth's proficiency-based system of~~

~~education, after January 1, 2021, the awarding of a diploma from Cape Elizabeth schools will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas and Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results rather than the accumulation of credits. The student must also fulfill the other requirements specified in the policy.~~

~~A. Phase in of content area requirements from the 2020-2021 school year to the 2024-2025 school year:~~

- ~~1. Commencing with the Class of 2021, in order to receive a high school diploma, students must demonstrate proficiency in meeting the State standards in the four content areas of:
  - ~~a) English Language Arts;~~
  - ~~b) Mathematics;~~
  - ~~c) Science; and~~
  - ~~d) Social Studies.~~~~
- ~~2. Commencing with the Class of 2022, in order to receive a high school diploma, students must demonstrate proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content areas of:
  - ~~a) English Language Arts;~~
  - ~~b) Mathematics;~~
  - ~~c) Science;~~
  - ~~d) Social Studies; and~~
  - ~~e) At least one additional content area of the student's choice.~~~~
- ~~3. Commencing with the Class of 2023, in order to receive a high school diploma, students must demonstrate proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content areas of:
  - ~~a) English Language Arts;~~
  - ~~b) Mathematics;~~
  - ~~c) Science;~~
  - ~~d) Social Studies; and~~
  - ~~e) At least two additional content areas of the student's choice.~~~~
- ~~4. Commencing with the Class of 2024, in order to receive a high school diploma, students must demonstrate proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content areas of:
  - ~~a) English Language Arts;~~
  - ~~b) Mathematics;~~
  - ~~c) Science;~~
  - ~~d) Social Studies; and~~
  - ~~e) At least three additional content areas of the student's choice.~~~~

~~5. Commencing with the Class of 2025, in order to receive a high school diploma, students must demonstrate proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content areas of:~~

- ~~a) English Language Arts;~~
- ~~b) Mathematics;~~
- ~~c) Science;~~
- ~~d) Social Studies;~~
- ~~e) World Languages;~~
- ~~f) Computer, Industrial, Performing, and Visual Arts;~~
- ~~g) Health and Physical Education; and~~
- ~~h) Career and Education Development.\*~~

~~\*The Career and Education Development standards may be embedded and addressed in other content-area learning experiences.~~

~~B. In addition to the content-area requirements, the student must meet the following additional credit requirements established by the Board:~~

- ~~1. Engage in learning experiences in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies in each year of high school;~~
- ~~2. Engage in learning experiences in World Languages in at least two years of high school;~~
- ~~3. Engage in learning experiences in Health and Physical Education in at least two years in high school; and~~
- ~~4. Engage in learning experiences that integrate Career and Education Development into other content areas of the Maine Learning Results.~~

~~C. Students may also opt to pursue proficiency through other pathways including:~~

- ~~1. Early college/dual enrollment courses;~~
- ~~2. Career and technical education programming;~~
- ~~3. Online/virtual learning;~~
- ~~4. Apprenticeships, internships, or fieldwork;~~
- ~~5. Community service;~~
- ~~6. Exchange programs;~~
- ~~7. Independent study;~~
- ~~8. Alternative education; and~~
- ~~9. Adult education.~~

~~Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to Cape Elizabeth's course offerings and be preapproved by the appropriate~~

~~department chair~~, a school counselor and the principal.

~~D.~~—Students identified for special education who achieve proficiency in the content standards and Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results, as specified in the goals and objective of their Individual Education Plan (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

**I. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASS OF 2024 AND BEYOND**

A. Commencing with the Class of 2024, students must earn 230 credits, as follows:

1. English Language Arts – 40 credits;
2. Mathematics – 30 credits;
3. Science – 30 credits, including at least ten credits of laboratory study;
4. Social Studies – 30 credits, including American history, government, civics, and personal finance;
5. Visual and Performing Arts – 10 credits;
6. Industrial and Computer Technology – 5 credits;
7. Arts or Technology – 5 credits;
8. Health – 5 credits;
9. Physical Education – 10 credits;
10. Electives – 65 credits.

B. Students who wish to meet these requirements through learning experiences other than Cape Elizabeth’s course offerings may earn credits following prior written approval by the principal, in consultation with the appropriate department chair and school counselor.

C. Students with disabilities, as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B, who satisfy the CESD graduation requirements in the manner specified by their IEP will be awarded a diploma.

**II. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A CAPE ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

A. Transfer Students

For students who transfer to Cape Elizabeth High School from ~~another state or from~~ an educational program that is not aligned with the content standards and Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results, the principal shall evaluate the value of the student’s prior educational experience and determine the degree to

which the student has met CESD's graduation requirements.

B. Home-schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Cape Elizabeth High School, the principal shall evaluate the value of the student's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the student has met CESD's graduation requirements. Home-schooled students must **be enrolled at Cape Elizabeth High School for their entire senior year for a minimum of two semesters** in order to receive a diploma.

C. **Veterans**

**Students who left Cape Elizabeth High School to serve in the Armed Forces (defined as Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; and the Merchant Marines for the period from December 7, 1941 to August 16, 1945) during World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War era (from February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975) may be awarded a diploma provided that they received an honorable discharge or a certificate of honorable service from the Armed Forces. The diploma may be awarded posthumously.**

D. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

Students who leave Cape Elizabeth High School to attend an accredited degree-granting institution of higher education may, upon satisfactory completion of their freshman year, be awarded a ~~high school diploma, provided that the student has notified the principal at the time of the early admission~~ **diploma even if they have not met the graduation requirements specified for their class herein.**

E. 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 remain at Cape Elizabeth High School** or be referred to ~~adult education~~ or other programs and resources. Extended study for **English learners** or students with disabilities shall be specified in their Individual Language Acquisition Plan (ILAP) or IEP, respectively.

F. Participation in Graduation

Students must have met all graduation requirements specified for their class herein in order to participate in graduation.

G. Honors, Awards, and Scholarships at Graduation

In order to be eligible for valedictorian status at graduation, a student must have attended Cape Elizabeth High School for at least three semesters prior to graduation. If a student in attendance at Cape Elizabeth High School for less than three semesters prior to graduation qualifies for the “top ten percent,” the number of students qualifying for that status will be expanded by one for each student meeting this description. Students in attendance for less than three semesters are otherwise eligible, without condition, for all ~~end-of-year~~ honors, awards, and scholarships.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 4722  
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross Reference: IKE – Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students  
IKFA – Early Graduation  
IKFC – Awarding of High School Course Credit Prior to Grade 9

Adopted: November 8, 1994  
Revised: November 12, 1996  
May 13, 2003  
November 14, 2006  
June 10, 2008  
December 11, 2012  
March 10, 2015  
September 12, 2017