**Instruction**

Graduation Requirements

Introduction

To graduate from the Hamden Public Schools, a student must earn a minimum of twenty-three (23) credits and meet the proper credit distribution requirements.

**Credit Distribution Requirements**

Students must earn credits in the following courses:

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| English | 4 credits (1 credit American Literature) |
| Social Science | 3 credits (1 credit United States History, .5 credit Civics) |
| Mathematics | 3 credits (business math or accounting at the high school counts toward this requirement) |
| Science | 3 credits (1 credit Biology) |
| Physical Education | 1.5 credits |
| Practical Arts | .5 credit* |
| Fine Arts | 1 credit** |
| Health Education | .5 credit |
| Electives | 6.5 credits |

*Courses in Business, Career Education, Technology and Family and Consumer Science
** Courses in Art, Music and Theater

Under federal law, Connecticut must administer end-of-year tests to all students in Grades 3 to 8 and once in high school. As part of its transition to college and career-ready standards, Connecticut's high school exam was recently moved from Grade 10 to Grade 11. Connecticut has identified the SAT as the high school exam to be administered.

Beginning with the Class of 2017, all juniors will be required to participate in the SAT exam. Hamden Public Schools will adhere to state guidelines regarding participation and participation rates.

**Options if Credit Requirements Not Met**

Seniors who are not eligible for graduation with their class due to failure to meet the district credit requirements and/or performance standards, may select one of the following options:

A. Enroll in summer school and meet the credit requirements; or

B. Return to high school as a fifth year student and meet the credit requirements.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes

10-16(1) Graduation Exercises (As amended by P.A. 96-26 An Act Concerning Graduation Requirements and Readmission and Placement of Older Students).

10-221a High School Graduation Requirements (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II and P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring a Civics Course for High School Graduation).

10-233(a) Promotion and Graduation Policies (As amended by P.A. 01-1166).

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| Policy Adopted: | June 14, 2005 |
| Policy Amended: | December 12, 2006 |
| Policy Amended: | May 12, 2015 |
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| Policy Amended: | |
| First Reading | November 10, 2015 |
| Second Reading | December 8, 2015 (adopted) |

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Hamden, Connecticut