

## 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.

Orono High School has adopted a credit-based system of learning consistent with Maine law. Students are expected to show achievement of Maine Learning Results and Guiding Principles as demonstrated by the accumulation of required credits.

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. The Graduation Requirements will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

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

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.

### I. CREDIT-BASED REQUIREMENTS

A. The student must successfully complete the following requirements:

1. Students who anticipate graduating in the Classes of 2018, 2019, or 2020 must earn 22.5 credits and meet the following minimum requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma:

<b>Content area &amp; credits required:</b>	<b>MUST include:</b>
English Language Arts (4 credits)	Ninth Grade English & Expository Writing (1.5 credits)
Mathematics (3 credits)	Algebra I-A (1 credit) or combination of Algebra I-B1 and Algebra I-B2 (2 credits) Geometry (1 credit)
Social Studies (3 credits)	World Civilizations & Geography (1 credit) Civic Engagement (1 credit) U.S History (1 credit)
Science (3 credits)	Physical Science (1 credit) Biology (1 credit) Course(s) with a chemistry emphasis (1 credit)
Health (.5 credit)	
Physical Education (1.5 credits)	PE 9 (.5 credit)
Visual and Performing Arts (1 credit)	
Service Learning (.5 credit)	

	30 hours of Community Service or Service Learning Project OR a 0.5 credit service learning course with a written report and a presentation
Electives (6 credits)	Courses selected based upon the student’s interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.
<b>TOTAL CREDITS 22.5</b> <i>through 2020</i>	

2. Students who anticipate graduating in the Classes of 2021 and beyond must earn 22.5 credits and meet the following minimum requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma:

<b>Content area &amp; credits required:</b>	<b>MUST include:</b>
English Language Arts (4 credits)	Ninth Grade English & Expository Writing (1.5 credits)
Mathematics (4 credits)	Algebra I-A (1 credit) or combination of Algebra I-B1 and Algebra I-B2 (2 credits), Geometry (1 credit)
Social Studies (3 credits)	World Civilizations & Geography (1 credit) Civic Engagement (1 credit) U.S History (1 credit)
Science and Technology (3.5 credits)	Physical Science (1 credit) Biology (1 credit) Course(s) with a chemistry emphasis (1 credit) Computer Science course (.5 credit)
Health (.5 credit)	
Physical Education (1.5 credits)	PE 9 (.5 credit)
Visual and Performing Arts (1 credit)	
Service Learning (.5 credit)	<del>30 hours of Community Service or Service Learning Project OR a 0.5 credit service learning course with a written report and a presentation</del>
Electives (4.5 credits)	Courses selected based upon the student’s interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.
<b>TOTAL CREDITS 22.5</b> <i>Class of 2021 and beyond</i>	

B. The remaining credits may be selected by the student based on his/her interest, satisfaction of course prerequisites, and requirements of the field that he/she plans to enter upon graduation.

### **MULTIPLE PATHWAYS FOR EARNING CREDITS**

A student who is deficient in these requirements or wishes to meet these requirements through alternative means may earn and apply credits in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Guidance requirements for students who are enrolled in the CORE Alternative Education program will be set in policy IKFC which supersedes this policy for those students.

Each alternative pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to the school unit's own educational experience (course) offerings. A student who wishes to meet a credit requirement through an alternative pathway described in this section must have prior written approval from the school counselor and principal. At most 4 credits (the equivalent of one semester) can be met through methods in this section although the superintendent can make exceptions to this cap in exceptional circumstances.

- A. The student must have prior written approval from the Director of Adult Education in addition to the School Counselor and Principal.
- B. A student may earn credits through distance learning/virtual courses provided the course is approved in advance by the School Counselor and Principal. Final determination of meeting distance learning/virtual course proficiency must be determined by the content area department teachers and Principal.
- C. Advanced courses or courses not available at Orono High School may be taken at other secondary schools or at approved postsecondary institutions with the approval of the School Counselor and Principal. Final determination of meeting distance learning/virtual course proficiency must be determined by the content area department teachers and Principal.
- D. Home schooling courses can be used for credit if the School Counselor and Principal approve it in advance. For such approval to be granted a written plan describing the material to be covered, what documentation would be expected to demonstrate work performed and proficiency, and what assessments would be used would need to be provided to and agreed upon by the School Counselor and Principal. The agreed upon documentation would have to be provided after completion of the course and be found satisfactory by the School Counselor and Principal for credit to be granted.

A student who makes up deficiencies may participate in the regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of all graduation requirements.

### **STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

For students who have an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the requirements of this policy must be met as specified by the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plan.

## **II. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM ORONO HIGH SCHOOL**

This section applies to all students, in all graduation classes.

### **A. Transfer Students**

Transfer students will be required to meet the same credit requirements as all other students. The Orono High School principal shall determine the progress of the student's prior educational performance towards achieving Maine's Learning Results in a manner consistent with this policy.

B. Home-schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Orono High School, the Orono High School Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements. A home-schooled student will be required to meet the credit requirements outlined in this policy in order to receive a Orono High School Diploma.

C. Options for Students from Abroad

Students studying at Orono High School on a J-1 exchange visa may earn a Certificate of Attendance upon successful completion of a full course load (5 or more credits), one being US History. Students from abroad may earn a Orono High School Diploma by:

- Completing comparable curriculum requirements to Orono High School in their native schools during grades 9-11. Attending and completing grade 12 at Orono High School in Orono, Maine while studying on an F-1 student visa.

D. Early Awarding of Diplomas

A student who has met the State's and Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma with prior written approval from the school counselor and principal.

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 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.

F. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises. The Principal of the high school may approve alternatives with students as needed.

G. Honors and Awards at Graduation

In order to be eligible for a top-10 honor a student must have attended Orono High School for four semesters. The principal may approve exceptions for extenuating circumstances. All Orono High School students will be eligible for all remaining end-of-year honors, awards, and scholarships.

~~Approved: 6/20/17~~

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