

# POLICY

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Students

NEW

## **SUBJECT: GRADUATION OPTION/EARLY GRADUATION/ACCELERATED PROGRAMS**

To graduate from the District, a student must meet or exceed the requirements set forth in Part 100 of the Commissioner's regulations. The Board may establish graduation requirements that exceed the minimum standards set by the Board of Regents. The District will award the appropriate diploma, credential, or both to students.

### **Pathways to Graduation**

Students must pass the required number of Regents examinations or approved alternative exams and meet any further graduation requirements; these requirements may include passing an approved pathways assessment, other assessment, or an additional exam that measure an equivalent level of knowledge and skill. Students who fail certain Regents examinations may appeal the result in accordance with Commissioner's regulations.

### **Early Graduation**

A student may be eligible for early graduation (fewer than eight semesters) if the student completes all requirements for graduation, excluding physical education. The District will consult with appropriate personnel, the student, and persons in parental relation, and consider factors such as the student's grades, performance in school, future plans, and benefits to graduation early in making its decision.

### **Accelerated Programs**

#### Eighth Grade Acceleration for Diploma Credits

Eighth grade students may take appropriate high school courses. The Superintendent or designee will determine whether an eighth grade student is eligible to take high school courses using criteria that examines each student's readiness. By the end of seventh grade, accelerated students must receive instruction designed to facilitate their attainment of the state intermediate learning standards in each subject area in which they are accelerated.

#### Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement examinations afford students the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing in many colleges and universities. The College Board administers a variety of AP examinations in May of each year. The District will determine a student's readiness for enrollment in any AP class.

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**SUBJECT: GRADUATION OPTION/EARLY GRADUATION/ACCELERATED PROGRAMS (Cont'd.)**

## **Dual Credit for College Courses**

Students who have demonstrated intellectual and social maturity may choose to matriculate at any one of the colleges that have a cooperative agreement with the District. Students who wish to enroll in college-level coursework must meet all academic, grade level, and coursework requirements. These opportunities may include early admission to college, collegiate-level work offered in the high school, or other means of providing advanced work. The administration will review and approve any college courses before they are taken during the school day. The Board will not pay tuition and other related costs for those high school students enrolled in college courses.

## **Online Coursework**

The District may offer students the ability to complete general education and diploma requirements for a specific subject through online instruction or blended coursework that combines online and classroom-based instruction.

To receive credit for online coursework, students must successfully complete an online or blended course and demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes for the subject by passing the Regents exam or other assessment in the subject area.

8 NYCRR §§ 100.1(i), 100.2(f), 100.4(d), 100.5, 100.6, and 200.5

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7222 -- Diploma or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities

Adoption Date

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Students

OLD

## **SUBJECT: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/EARLY GRADUATION/ACCELERATED PROGRAMS**

In order to graduate from Homer Central School District, a student must complete or may exceed the requirements set forth in Part 100 of the Commissioner's regulations. The Board of Education reserves the right to establish requirements for graduation which exceed the minimum standards as defined by the New York State Regents. All students must be in compliance with Commissioner's regulations for graduation to achieve a minimum of a Regents diploma unless otherwise indicated. Therefore, in accordance with applicable law and regulations, the District may award one or more of the following to students:

- a) Regents Diploma;
- b) Regents Diploma with Honors;
- c) Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation;
- d) Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors;
- e) Annotation of Science and/or Math Mastery;
- f) Career and Technical Endorsement.

### **Pathways to Graduation**

In addition to the four Regents examinations or approved alternative exams required of all students in the areas of English, mathematics, science, and social studies, students may satisfy their fifth examination requirement by passing an approved Pathways Assessment that measures an equivalent level of knowledge and skill. This "4+1" option, as set forth in the Commissioner's regulations, permits students to take four Regents examinations and also one Pathways Assessment, as approved by the Commissioner, in the area of Humanities, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Career and Technical Education (CTE), the Arts, or Biliteracy (languages other than English). The "4+1" option does not, however, change existing graduation course or credit requirements and applies to students who first enter grade 9 in September 2011 and thereafter or who are otherwise eligible to receive a high school diploma in June 2016 and thereafter.

### **Appeal of Regents Examination Score Option**

The District must provide unlimited opportunities for all students to retake required Regents examinations to improve their scores so that the student may graduate with a Regents diploma. Any student who fails, after at least two attempts, to attain a score of 65 or above on a required Regents examination for graduation will have access to the appeals process in accordance with the provisions of Section 100.5(d)(7) of the Commissioner's regulations. No student may appeal his or her score on more than two of the five required Regents examinations. A student whose appeal with a score

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## **SUBJECT: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/EARLY GRADUATION/ACCELERATED PROGRAMS (Cont'd.)**

between 62 and 64 is accepted for one required Regents examination, and who has attained a passing score of 65 or above on each of the four remaining required Regents examinations and fulfilled all other course and testing requirements, shall earn a Regents diploma. A student whose appeal with scores between 62 and 64 is accepted for two required Regents examinations, and who has attained a passing score of 65 or above on each of the three remaining required Regents examinations and who has fulfilled all other course and testing requirements, shall earn a local diploma. Approval of an appeal will not change the student's score on the Regents examination under appeal. In addition, the decision to grant or deny an appeal is made at the District level and is not subject to State Education Department (SED) approval.

### English Language Learners

In addition to the general Regents examination appeals process previously set forth, the following appeals process applies to English Language Learners (ELL) as identified within the Commissioner's regulations. An ELL who first entered school in the United States in grade 9 or above, and who is otherwise eligible to graduate in January 2016 or thereafter, and who also fulfills all other course, testing, and eligibility requirements in accordance with the Commissioner's regulations, may appeal a score of 55-61 on the required Regents examination in English Language Arts (ELA) after two (2) attempts at attaining a score of 65 or above, to graduate with a local diploma provided that such student meets all other criteria in accordance with Commissioner's regulation Section 100.5(d)(7).

### **Early Graduation**

Upon request from the student's parent or guardian, a student shall be eligible for early graduation in fewer than eight semesters upon completion of all requirements for graduation, excluding physical education, as mandated by Commissioner's regulations. A student shall not be required to continue enrollment for the sole purpose of completing physical education requirements.

### **Accelerated Programs**

#### Eighth Grade Acceleration for Diploma Credits

Individual eighth grade students may be afforded the opportunity to take high school courses in mathematics and in at least one of the following areas: English, social studies, languages other than English, art, music, career and technical education subjects, or science courses. The Superintendent or his or her designee is responsible for determining whether an eighth grade student is eligible to take high school courses. The District shall utilize a set of criteria to determine each student's readiness for acceleration. Students who are accelerated for diploma credit must have been provided instruction designed to facilitate their attainment of, by the end of grade 7, the State intermediate learning standards in each subject area in which they are accelerated.

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**SUBJECT: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/EARLY GRADUATION/ACCELERATED PROGRAMS (Cont'd.)**

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) examinations are administered by the College Board with strict guidelines as to their implementation. A national, standardized, arduous examination is administered by the College Board in May of each year for a great variety of courses in various subject areas. In addition to entering a universe of knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in high school, Advanced Placement examinations afford students the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing in many of the nation's colleges and universities. The District shall utilize a set of criteria to determine a student's readiness for enrollment in the Advanced Placement classes.

**Online Coursework**

The District may offer students the ability to complete general education and diploma requirements for a specific subject through online instruction or blended coursework that combines online and classroom-based instruction.

To receive credit for such online coursework, students must successfully complete an online or blended course and demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes for the subject by passing the Regents exam and/or other assessment in the subject area.

8 NYCRR Sections 100.1(i), 100.2(f), 100.4(d), 100.5, 100.6 and 200.5

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #8590 -- Diploma and/or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities

Adopted: 12/8/92

Revised: 9/24/96; 12/2/08; 6/12/12; 5/24/16