

## Raymond School District Policy – IKF

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION POLICY

In order to better meet the individual needs of each student, Raymond High School offers a differentiated diploma program. In addition to the Raymond High School Diploma, Raymond High School also offers a State Standard Diploma and a NH Scholars Diploma.

The District requires that every student take three years of math and an additional year of math or a non-math class in which mathematics is significantly applied.

The District will develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics consistent with pertinent and applicable law. This assessment will be administered to students as part of the high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire. Students who attain a passing grade on this assessment will be eligible to receive a high school diploma.

**Raymond High School Diploma-** This diploma is awarded in regular circumstances and is based on the Raymond School District minimum requirements for a high school diploma.

<u>Credit/Course Requirements</u>	<u>Number of Credits</u>
Fine and Performing Arts	.50
Computer	1.00
English	4.00
Health	.50
Mathematics	3.00 (including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program)
Physical Education	1.00
Science	3.00
Social Studies	2.50
Total Credits Required	15.50
Total Credits Elective	8.50
<b>Total credits needed to graduate</b>	<b>24.00</b>

**Raymond High School Honors Diploma** - Students must earn 28 credits, have taken two years of consecutive world language, and must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.27 or higher.

<u>Credit/Course Requirements</u>	<u>Number of Credits</u>
English	4
Math	3 (including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program)
Social Studies	2.5
Science	3
World Languages	2
<del>Art</del> Fine and Performing Arts	.5
Health	.50
Computer Education	1
Physical Education	1
ELO/Online Learning	.50
Electives	10
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>28</b>

**State Standard Diploma**- This diploma is awarded in special circumstances and is based on the State of New Hampshire minimum requirements for a high school diploma. The approval of the school administration and Superintendent is required to be considered for this diploma. See IKF-R for criteria, application and appeal process.

<u>Credit/Course Requirements</u>	<u>Number of Credits</u>
Art	.50
Information and Communication Technologies	.50
English	4.00
Mathematics	3.00 (including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program)
Physical Sciences	1.00
Biological Sciences	1.00
US and NH History	1.00
US and NH Government/Civics	.50
Economics, including personal finance	.50
World History, Global Studies or Geography	.50
Health	.50
Physical Education	1.00
Open Electives	6.00
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>20.00</b>

**NH Scholars Diploma**-This diploma is awarded in special circumstances for those students who have met all of the requirements of the NH Scholars.

Courses	NH Scholars	STEM	Arts
English --World Literature, American Literature, English Electives	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics - Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one other competency	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Science - Including 3 years of Labs chosen from Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and others approved by individual schools	3 credits	4 credits	3 credits
Social Studies - Chosen from U.S. History, World History, World Geography, Economics, Government, Psychology and others as approved by individual schools	3.5 credits	3.5 credits	3.5 credits
Languages - Two years of the same language other than English	2 credits	2 credits	2 credits
STEM- At least one more year chosen from Technology, Engineering, Computers, Advanced Manufacturing, Science, Math, CTE Program, Project Lead The Way, and others as approved by individual schools		1 credit	
Arts - Chose from Visual Arts, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Music, Graphic Design, and others as approved by individual schools			2 credits

Minimum  
3.2 GPA

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**Certificates of Completion** - Students with individualized education plans (IEP's) may earn a Certificate of Completion. These certificates shall not be equal to a regular high school diploma per the State of New Hampshire Department of Education. All students with disabilities shall be entitled to continue their high school educational program until such time as each student has earned a regular high school diploma or has attained the age of 21, whichever comes first. Certification of Completion recognizes the completion of a student's program as set forth by the Special Education Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Placement Team.

The following conditions will apply to students earning a Certificate of Completion:

- The student is identified with an educational disability as documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- The student has spent a majority of their high school program in either non-credit granting courses or was unable to demonstrate competency in required courses and, therefore, was unable to attain sufficient credits for a standard diploma.

The special Education Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Placement Team will determine if the student has met the criteria for a Certificate of Completion as outlined in the IEP. An award of this certificate will be on or before the student's 21st birthday. The student may choose when to receive the Certificate of Completion on one of three predetermined opportunities:

- At graduation with common age peers
- At the conclusion of IEP program, or
- Upon reaching the age of 21 (Graduation ceremony must be prior to their 21st birthday).

If the student participates in the traditional ceremony, the student's name will be included in the written graduation publication(s). The granting of a Certificate of Completion and/or participation in the commencement activities does not negate the student's rights to services until the age of 21 as prescribed in the IEP.

**Certificates of Attendance-** Students with individualized education plans (IEP's) may earn certificates of attendance. These certificates shall not be equal to a regular high school diploma per the State of New Hampshire Department of Education. All students with disabilities shall be entitled to continue their high school educational program until such time as each student has earned a regular high school diploma or has attained the age of 21, whichever comes first. Certificates of Attendance indicate that the school district recognizes a student's time at Raymond High School. A Transition Plan/Diploma track will be developed at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year or upon entrance to Raymond High School.

#### Criteria

- Special Education Team decision (includes, special education case manager, superintendent of schools, teacher, administration, parent or guardian and guidance)
- Student must be present 90% of the time
- Student must be in attendance for at least 4 years
- Student must be identified with an IEP
- Student has attended until age 21 but has not met the state requirements for graduation

#### **Passage of Civics Exam.**

The district will develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics, consistent with pertinent and applicable law. This assessment will be administered to students as part of the high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire. Students must attain a passing grade on this assessment to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate.

Effective for students graduating in 2024, the district will also administer the 128 question civics (history and government) naturalization examination developed by the 2020 United States Citizen and Immigration Services ("U.S. Citizenship Test"). This exam may be modified for a student with a disability in accordance with the student's individualized education program. Students must earn a grade of 70 percent or better to be eligible to receive a high school diploma or other graduation certificate.

Under RSA 189:11, II, the Superintendent will submit the composite results of either the locally developed civics competency assessment or the U.S. Citizenship Test to the N.H. Department of Education.

### **Federal Student Aid Application.**

Effective for students graduating in 2024, as a requirement for receiving a high school diploma, each student who is at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, or the parent/guardian of such a student who is under 18 years of age, shall either:

1. file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Department of Education; or
2. file a waiver on a form created by the N.H. Board of Education with the District indicating that the parent/guardian or, if applicable, the student, understands what FAFSA is and has chosen not to file an application.

The District shall provide to each student and, if applicable, the parent/guardian, any support or assistance necessary to comply with the requirement above.

The District shall award a high school diploma to any student who is unable to meet the requirement above if the student has met all other graduation requirements and the building Principal attests that the District has made a good faith effort to assist the student or parent/guardian in filing an application or waiver.

The Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma (see Board policy IKFA. Parental involvement for students under the age of 18 is required. The high school principal shall approve such requests if he/she determines that all state and local graduation requirements will be met and that early graduation is related to career and/or educational plans of the student making the request. Upon approval by the high school principal, the minimum 4-unit requirement per year for enrolled students shall be waived and the student shall be awarded a high school diploma.

### **Legal References:**

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(14), How Credit Can Be Earned*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(f), Awarding of Credit for Required Subjects and Open Electives*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.27(d), Mastery of Required Competencies*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.27 (m), Credits Required for Graduation*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules Section Ed 306.27 (j), English and Mathematics Graduation Competencies*  
*NH RSA 189:11*

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