MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Parsons Board Room
70 West River Street
Milford, CT 06460

January 26, 2026
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Live Streamed on YouTube
MGAT Edu Link on YouTube
Available on Optimum and Frontier Government Access Channels

The Public Comment portion of our agenda gives members of the public the opportunity to comment on matters that pertain to the Board of Education. Please keep in mind that the structure of our meeting does not allow for two-way dialogue during public comment or to answer questions, and we ask that you keep your comments limited to 3 minutes.

Citizens who only want to watch the meeting have the option to access the YouTube live stream: MGAT Edu Link on YouTube or one of the cable Government Access Channels.

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Board of Education Policies for a First Reading - Mr. Steve Autieri
   A. 6146 Graduation Requirements

IV. Adjourn to Executive Session:
   Update on viable land options for the Long Range Facilities Plan provided by consultants, Perkins Eastman

V. Reconvene to Public Session

VI. Discussion of District-Wide Facilities Master Plan and next steps

VII. Public Comment

Public Comment
Speakers may offer objective comments about school operations and programs. The Board encourages speakers not to express personal complaints or defamatory comments about the Milford Board of Education personnel or any person associated with the Milford Public School System. Security issues and matters relating to negotiations/grievances will not be permitted. Consistent with the principles of the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act, discussion of students is prohibited absent parental waiver. Public comment does not allow for two-way conversation between speakers and the Board. We welcome and appreciate your comments and opinions and all will be taken into consideration. Please note our meetings are televised and live-streamed on YouTube. We ask that you state your name and address for the record and limit your comments to three minutes. Public Comment is limited to agenda items only.

VIII. Adjournment

Any individual with a disability who needs special assistance to participate in the meeting, should contact the Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations at 783-3405, as soon as possible.

Section: Instruction

Subject: Graduation Requirements P-6146

Board Policy
Milford Public Schools
Milford, CT

Graduation Requirements

I. Introduction

Graduation from Milford Public Schools (District) implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the statewide mastery examinations, as well as those established by the District and approved by the Superintendent, and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits.

The District, in recognition of its responsibility for the education of all students in the district, including those who do not successfully complete the assessment criteria listed above and those who drop out of school, shall make available to all the school district's students a course of study or alternative programming for meeting standards that will enable them to acquire a high school or vocational school diploma.

The District may grant students high school credit for successful completion of coursework earned from an accredited institution of higher learning taken either during the school year or summer months.

After April 1st in any school year, the Milford Board of Education (Board) shall establish a firm graduation date for that school year, which at the time of such establishment provides for at least 180 days and 900 hours of school.

II. Credit Distribution Requirement for Graduation

Graduating Class of 2024 through 2026

To graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than:

- Nine credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts;
- Nine credits in science, technology, engineering and Mathematics
- One credit in physical education and wellness;
- One credit in health and safety education;
- One credit in world languages and
- One credit in a mastery-based diploma assessment

Commencing with classes graduating in 2027 and each graduating class thereafter, the District adheres to the State requirement permitting any high school student to be granted a diploma upon satisfactorily completing a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including no fewer than:

- Nine credits in the humanities, including civics and ~~the~~ at least a 0.5 credit in the Fine/Visual/Performing arts;
- Nine credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- One credit in physical education and wellness;
- One credit in health and safety education;
- One credit in world languages;
- One-half credit in personal financial management and financial literacy (applied to humanities or as an elective credit)

- One credit for a student-generated portfolio aligned to the MPS Vision of the Learner (beginning with class of 2027)

- ~~One credit in mastery-based diploma assessment for students to graduate or be granted a diploma and Beginning with the graduating class of 2027, the District shall no longer require a one-credit mastery-based diploma in order to graduate from High School.~~

III. Eligible Credits

Per statute (C.G.S. 221a(f)) the determination of eligible credits is at the discretion of the Board, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The District may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion if the District determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits. The graduation requirements shall apply to any student requiring special education except when the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines the requirement not to be appropriate.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State Board of Education or regionally accredited, (2) through remote/online coursework or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, and that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards adopted by the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) shall satisfy the graduation requirements. The District may grant a student credit toward meeting the high school graduation requirements upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter content described in this section achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including but not limited to cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and technical education, remote/online learning, work-based learning, service learning, dual and early college enrollment. However, the District may grant students credit toward meeting high school requirements based on courses taken in middle school that correspond directly to the subject matter of a specified high school course requirement, internships and student designed independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide content standards.

All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of remote/online courses must fulfill the requirements established in Policy 6172.6, "Remote/Online Learning."

IV. Student Success Plans

The District shall create a student success plan with the student beginning in grade six through grade twelve. The student success plan should include the student's career and academic choices. Such plan shall include a student's career and academic choices in grades six through twelve. Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall provide evidence of career exploration in each grade including, but not limited to, careers in manufacturing. Such a plan shall be created in compliance with the established rigorous and challenging curriculum.

V. Communicating Graduation Requirements

To ensure that every student and family has the information and resources they need to appropriately plan and sequence the student's educational decisions, our schools, educators, and staff will clearly and consistently communicate to these stakeholders prior to entering high school and throughout the student's educational career the graduation standards and diploma requirements that must be met to earn a high school diploma.

The Superintendent or his/her designee, through the High School Principal or other designee, shall be responsible for ensuring that accurate, up-to-date information concerning all graduation standards and diploma requirements are (1) readily available to all incoming students and their families in the spring preceding the start of each school year, and (2) published on the District and High School websites. A detailed guide to graduation standards, academic expectations, and diploma requirements will be disseminated to all incoming ninth-grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be referenced in each edition of the Parent Student Handbook and on the District and High School websites.

As soon as it is practical and feasible, the Board expects the Superintendent or designee to inform all students and their families of any modifications made to the district's graduation requirements, which extends to all applicable changes in relevant state laws, rules, or regulations.

VI. Transfer Students and Home School Students

For students who transfer to the District from another state, country, school, program, or home schooling situation, including educational programs that are not aligned with the District's High Schools' cross curricular and content area graduation standards, the Principal shall evaluate the value of the student's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the student has met the school's graduation requirements.

After enrolling in the District, these students will need to satisfy all assessment, proficiency, and graduation requirements in the appropriate subject areas, as determined by the Principal or his/her designee. The Superintendent will ultimately determine whether these students are eligible to receive a diploma.

VII. Options If Requirements are Not Met

Seniors who fail to meet the district graduation requirement, as per policy, in one or more subjects as described above, may select one of the following options:

1. Students under twenty-one years of age may return to continue their education, but a student enrolling in school who is nineteen years of age and cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one may be placed in another suitable alternative education program.
2. Enroll in summer school and pass the graduation requirement.
3. Enroll in courses to be designated through the Milford Adult Education Program and pass the graduation requirement.

VIII. Students Receiving Special Education and/or Support Services

Student support services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements~~,~~ previously listed if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an online course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, (3) allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

Students who successfully meet the district's cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

IX. Exemption from Physical Education Credit Requirement

Any student who presents a certificate from a physician stating that the student's participation in physical education is medically contraindicated shall be excused from the physical education requirement. In such a case, the physical education credit requirement shall be fulfilled by an elective as determined by the high school administration. Students shall not be excused from the physical education requirement based on a medical condition that the School Medical Advisor determines is temporary in nature. In such cases of a temporary restriction, the student may meet the requirements of the coursework through a parallel experience.

X. Awarding of Diplomas

Students who meet all the graduation requirements of this policy shall receive a diploma at the end-of-year commencement ceremony. Individuals also may meet graduation requirements by satisfactory completion of any of the following:

1. A diploma shall be awarded after the successful completion of a summer course or summer courses comparable (as determined by the Principal) to the subject(s) in which the student was deficient.
2. A diploma shall be awarded from the District upon request to any honorably discharged veteran who left high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States during World War II, the Korean or Vietnam hostilities and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

3. A diploma shall be awarded to a student who is under expulsion from the District but has satisfactorily completed all of the graduation requirements. However, that student shall not attend the commencement ceremony.

XI. Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy

The District, utilizing criteria established by the State Board of Education, may/shall affix the "Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy" to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The District shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student received the "Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy."

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)
(cf. 6172.6 - Remote/Online Learning)
(cf 6141.51 - Advanced Course Participation)
(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

~~10-5 State high school diploma; "honors diploma." Payment of fees; exceptions. (as amended by PA 17-29)~~
10-5c Board examination series pilot program. Issuance of certificate (as amended by P.A. 13-247 and P.A. 15-215)
10-14n State-wide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results. (as amended by Section 115 of PA 14-217)
10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (As amended by P.A. 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)
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, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill and P.A. 15-237, An Act Concerning High School Graduation, PA 17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements and PA 17-29, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy.)
10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166)
P.A. 13-108 An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.
Mastery-Based Learning-Guidelines for Implementation, Connecticut State Department of Education, June 3, 2015.
P.A. 13-247 An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget.
P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation.
P.A. 17-42 An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements
P.A 23-21 An Act Concerning Financial Literacy Instruction

Board of Education Approved: April 14, 1998
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