# 217. Graduation Requirements

1. **Purpose**

   The Board will acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the student's interests and needs by awarding a diploma at the graduation ceremonies.

   Pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board will acknowledge students with disabilities who have not yet earned a diploma by awarding a “certificate of attendance” at the graduation ceremonies, as explained in this policy.

2. **Authority**

   The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this district who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board as part of the district's Strategic Plan.

   The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve, which shall include course completion and grades, completion of a culminating project, and results of local and State assessments.

   The requirement for graduation shall be the completion of work and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9 through 12.

   The Board requires that each candidate for graduation shall have earned required credits. The fourth year of high school shall not be required if the student has been accepted by an accredited institution of higher learning and has completed all requirements for graduation.

   A special education student may earn a regular high school diploma by either meeting the graduation requirements established by the Board or the student's IEP Team can decide to adopt the goals and objectives from the student's IEP as graduation requirements.

   The Board shall allow any student with a disability whose individualized education program as established pursuant to 22 Pa. Code 14.131 (relating to IEP) prescribes...
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| Sec. 11.27 | continued special education programs beyond the fourth year of high school, shall be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremonies with the student's graduation class and receive a certificate of attendance, provided that the student has attended four (4) years of high school regardless of whether the student has completed the individualized program. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to preclude a student with a disability from receiving a high school diploma when the student satisfactorily completes an individualized education program as required under 22 Pa. Code 14.131. Certificates of attendance shall state the following language: "This certificate is not a high school diploma."

3. Delegation of Responsibility
   PA Code
   Title 22
   Sec. 11.27

4. Guidelines
   Policy 213, 216.

   The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the planning and execution of graduation ceremonies which appropriately mark this important achievement.

   Accurate recording of each student’s achievement of Academic standards shall be maintained, as required by law and State Board regulations.

   Students shall be informed of graduation requirements they are expected to complete.

   Periodic warnings shall be issued to students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements.

   No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure but she/he may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation when personal conduct so warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as school suspension.

School Code
1504, 1605,
1611, 1613

PA Code
Title 22
Sec. 5.222,
5.253