

**R.S.U. #82/M.S.A.D. #12 POLICY
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
(FOR THE CLASS OF 2020 AND BEYOND)**

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program which allows them to graduate from high school.

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. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

The Board has approved this schedule of minimum requirements for graduation for the class of 2020 and beyond.

As a minimum for graduation from high school, the prospective graduate must have successfully completed a minimum total of 22.5 credits at the secondary level (i.e. grades 9 through 12) as depicted in the list below.

Credit	Subject	Courses Required
4	English	
3.5	Social Studies	Gov't/Civics, Personal Finance, US History, Culture & Globalization
3	Math	
2	Science	One lab science
2	Fine Art	
1	Computer Science	Microsoft Application
1.5	Physical Education	
.5	Health	
1	Career and College Prep	
4	Electives	

*Students planning to gain admission to a 4-year college are urged to take at least 2 years of a foreign language.

**Students opting to participate in a minimum of 40 hours of approved community service will earn .5 an elective credit.

***Students receiving Special Services may be registered in equivalent courses to meet graduation requirements as identified in their Individual Education Program (IEP).

Transcripts of students that have been previously enrolled in a proficiency-based system of learning, students transferring to Forest Hills High School, students that have completed college level course work, previously home-schooled students and students that have completed other forms of alternative high school programming (a student meeting a credit requirement through an alternative method must have prior written approval from the Principal) will be evaluated by the Principal to identify and verify equivalent courses that match R.S.U. #82/M.S.A.D. #12 required courses. Following the transcript review, the principal will award credit accordingly. If a student/parent does not agree with the Principal's credit determination, an appeal may be made to a three-member review committee consisting of the Superintendent, the Guidance Counselor, and one high school faculty member. The finding of the review committee is final.

Each student's rank in his/her class is widely used by colleges in making admission decisions. R.S.U. #82/M.S.A.D. # 12 utilizes a weighted grade point average (GPA) to determine class rank. Numerical values are assigned to final grades according to the schedule listed below. These are used to compute a student's class rank and are based on the relative difficulty of the courses taken. The total number of courses taken also affects class rank.

Course Level	93-100	89-92	85-88	81-84	77-80	70-76
General	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1
College Prep/Honors	5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5
AP/College Course	6	5.5	5	4.5	4	3.5

Students who repeat a class for any reason will receive the higher of the two final grades calculated into their GPA. Both course attempts will appear on the student's transcript however.

A student who has met the R.S.U. #82/M.S.A.D. #12 graduation requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.

Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not yet reached the age of twenty (20) at the start of the school year. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

A Forest Hills High School student who satisfactorily completes the freshman year in an accredited degree-granting institution of higher learning is eligible to receive a diploma from R.S.U. #82/M.S.A.D. #12. At the Superintendent's discretion, a student who leaves Forest Hills High School to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may, upon satisfactory completion of the freshman year, be awarded a high school diploma, although he/she may not have met all diploma requirements.

Students who have completed all State and Board requirements for a high school diploma may participate in graduation exercises. To be eligible for honors or awards based wholly or in part on academic achievement (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian, class speaker, "Top 10"), a student must have been enrolled full time at Forest Hills High School during the year preceding graduation. Students who do not meet this enrollment requirement will not be "ranked" for determining eligibility for graduation honors, awards, or scholarships.

Cross Reference: IKE – Learner Progress Through the Learning System

IHA – Basic Instructional Program

IHBGA – Home Schooling – Participation in School Programs

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722; 4722-A; 6209

Ch. 125, 127, 131, 132(Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

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