

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

DATE ADOPTED: November 4, 2014

PURPOSE:

The Colchester School District believes strongly in providing students with minimum high school graduation requirements that are rigorous and prepares students for post secondary education and the world of work. The graduation requirements meet or exceed requirements by the Vermont Education Quality Standards.

To graduate from Colchester High School, a student shall earn a minimum of twenty-four and a half (24.5) credits as outlined below for Grades 9 – 12.

Course of Study	Minimum Credits Required
English	4.0
Social Studies	3.5 (American History, Senior Seminar)
Science	3.5 (Earth Systems Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
Mathematics	3.5 (Algebra, Geometry)
Fine Arts	1.0
Health	0.5
Physical Education	1.5
Electives	<u>7.0</u>
Total	24.5

All students must earn a minimum of twenty-four and a half (24.5) credits in Grades 9 – 12, as awarded by the Colchester High School which shall accept credits received from other accredited secondary schools, including summer school. Students entering the Colchester High School from a non-accredited school and alternative programs of study may establish credits through an examination given by the Colchester High School or by other means as determined by the Principal.

Colchester High School will provide students the opportunity to experience learning through flexible and multiple pathways, including but not limited to career and technical education, virtual learning, work-based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college. Learning must occur under the supervision of an appropriately licensed educator. Learning

School Quality Standard: 2120.8.7
Statutory Authority: 16 V.S.A. §§ 164, 165

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Second Reading: November 4, 2014
Effective Date: July 1, 2015

expectations must be aligned with state expectations and standards. Students must be allowed to demonstrate proficiency by presenting multiple types of evidence, including but not limited to teacher- or student-designed assessments, portfolios, performances, exhibitions and projects.

Colchester High School is moving towards a proficiency-based graduation system whereby academic credit is awarded upon mastery of proficiencies in courses and other learning experiences. Instead of students gaining credit for the time they put into classes, for instance during a semester, students will now have to demonstrate they have met set learning expectations to receive credit no matter how long it takes. Taken together, the proficiencies or credits gained will provide a cumulative body of evidence that students have met overall school-wide and discipline-specific graduation expectations and are ready to graduate. We are working towards the proficiency-based graduation system, guided by a personal learning plan for each student, being in place by September, 2017.

In order for a student to participate in the graduation ceremony, s/he must have completed the twenty-four and a half (24.5) graduation requirements outlined in this policy.