



**Official School Board Policy
of the
North Allegheny School District**

Board Policy # 3241

Rev. No.	Date	References:		
		School Law	Board Policy	Admin. Policy
1	4/30/03		3241	
2	6/27/07		3241	
3	1/26/11		3241	

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
for the Graduation Classes of 2011 - 2014**

1.0 CURRICULUM REGULATIONS

The Curriculum Regulations published in Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania Department of Education Regulations, 22 Pa. Code §4.1 et. seq., require at §4.24 that each school district specify requirements for graduation from High School in the strategic plan as mandated under §4.13(c) (4) of the regulations.

2.0 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The graduation requirements for North Allegheny High School are established as listed below. Through grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, a total of 21.5 credits shall include:

- 2.1 English - 4.0 credits*
- 2.2 Social Studies - 4.0 credits
- 2.3 Mathematics - 3.0 credits
- 2.4 Science - 3.0 credits
- 2.5 Physical Education (.5 credit per year) - 2.0 credits
- 2.6 Health Education - .5 credit
- 2.7 Arts & Humanities Electives - 2.0 credits
- 2.8 Other Electives - 3.0 credits
- 2.9 **Total Credits** - **21.5 credits**

*Includes culminating project as detailed in the North Allegheny School District Strategic Plan.

2.10 In order to be eligible for graduation, a student must demonstrate mastery of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards on the culminating 11th grade Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA), and/or local assessment aligned to the PA Academic Standards as designed or selected by the District, or through progress monitoring of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Mastery shall be deemed as attaining a score of Proficient or higher on the 11th grade PSSA or 12th grade PSSA Retest, attaining passing grades on a local assessment aligned to the PA Academic Standards as designed or selected by the District, or fulfilling requirements of a graduation plan on a student's IEP.



3.0 NON-PROFICIENT STUDENTS

3.1 Beginning in 2008-2009, high school students in grades 9-12 who have not demonstrated proficiency on the PSSA in Math, and/or Reading and Writing will be required to schedule and attend a remediation resource class.

3.1.1 Non-proficient students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) may meet this requirement through attending classes determined by the IEP team.

3.1.2 Students will be required to remain in the resource class or class determined by the IEP team until they demonstrate proficiency on the 11th grade PSSA or a series of systemic benchmark assessments, identified by the District and/or IEP team.

3.2 Beginning in 2008-2009, students who do not achieve a score of Proficient or higher on the culminating PSSA test in 11th grade must take the retest offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in 12th grade.

4.0 SPECIAL NOTE

All citations to General Curriculum Regulations, Department of Education, Chapter 4, approved by the State Board of Education, January 16, 1999, as amended.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS **for the Graduation Classes of 2015 and 2016**

5.0 CURRICULUM REGULATIONS

The Curriculum Regulations published in Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania Department of Education Regulations, 22 Pa. Code §4.1 et. seq., require at §4.24 that each school district specify requirements for graduation from High School in the strategic plan as mandated under §4.13(c)(4) of the regulations. For the specific Graduating Classes of 2015 and 2016, school districts must implement one of several options related to the Keystone Exam legislation.



6.0 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The graduation requirements for North Allegheny High School are established as listed below. Through grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, a total of 24.0 credits shall include:

6.1	English	- 4.0 credits
6.2	Social Studies	- 4.0 credits
6.3	Mathematics	- 3.0 credits
6.4	Science (includes Biology)	- 3.0 credits
6.5	S.T.E.M.*	- 1.0 credit
6.6	Physical Education (.5 credit/year)	- 2.0 credits
6.7	Health Education	- .5 credit
6.8	Arts & Humanities Electives	- 2.0 credits
6.9	Other Electives	- <u>4.5 credits</u>
	Total Credits	- 24.0 credits

- The English credits also includes the culminating project as detailed in the North Allegheny School District Strategic Plan.

* S.T.E.M. refers to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The Program of Studies outlines specific courses that meet the S.T.E.M. designation.

6.10 In order to be eligible for graduation, a student must demonstrate mastery of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards on the culminating 11th grade Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA), and/or local assessment aligned to the PA Academic Standards as designed or selected by the District, or through progress monitoring of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Mastery shall be deemed as attaining a score of Proficient or higher on the 11th grade PSSA or 12th grade PSSA Retest, attaining passing grades on a local assessment aligned to the PA Academic Standards as designed or selected by the District, or fulfilling requirements of a graduation plan on a student's IEP.

6.11 In order to be eligible for graduation, students in the Classes of 2015 and 2016 must demonstrate proficiency of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and Eligible Content for the Keystone Exams in the areas of Algebra I, Biology, Composition, and Literature. These four end-of-course Keystone Exams will serve as a stand-alone proficiency requirement for North Allegheny students. These specific Keystone Exams will be administered at the direction of the District according to published guidelines by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) when a child has completed that particular course.



6.12 Pending approval by the United States Department of Education, PDE is proposing that these four Keystone Exams (i.e., Algebra I, Biology, Composition, and Literature) replace the 11th grade PSSAs as the required tests to comply with federal legislation. If this occurs, 6.11 will supersede 6.10 within this Policy; 8.0 will also supersede 7.0 within this Policy. Until that occurs, students in the Classes of 2015 and 2016 would need to meet both requirements.

7.0 NON-PROFICIENT STUDENTS - PSSA

7.1 Beginning in 2008-2009, high school students in grades 9-12 who have not demonstrated proficiency on the PSSA in Math, and/or Reading and Writing will be required to schedule and attend a remediation resource class.

7.1.1 Non-proficient students with Individualized Education Program (IEP) may meet this requirement through attending classes determined by the IEP team.

7.1.2 Students will be required to remain in the resource class or class determined by the IEP team until they demonstrate proficiency on the 11th grade PSSA or a series of systemic benchmark assessments, identified by the District and/or IEP team.

7.2 Beginning in 2008-2009, students who do not achieve a score of Proficient or higher on the culminating PSSA test in 11th grade must take the retest offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in 12th grade.

8.0 NON-PROFICIENT STUDENTS – KEYSTONE EXAMS

8.1 Beginning in 2011-2012, high school students in the Classes of 2015 and/or 2016 who have not demonstrated proficiency on the Keystone Exam for Algebra I, Biology, Composition, and/or Literature will be required to schedule and attend a remediation resource class.

8.1.1 Non-proficient students with Individualized Education Program (IEP) may meet this requirement through attending classes determined by the IEP team.

8.1.2 Students will be required to remain in the resource class or class determined by the IEP team until they demonstrate proficiency on the relevant Keystone Exam or complete a project developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

8.1.3 Beginning in 2011-2012, students who do not achieve a score of Proficient or higher on the relevant Keystone Exam must take the retest offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for that course at least one time before beginning the portfolio project activity.



9.0 SPECIAL NOTE

All citations to General Curriculum Regulations, Department of Education, Chapter 4, approved by the State Board of Education, January 16, 1999, as amended.

It is expected that the State Board of Education will issue additional regulations concerning the implementation of the Keystone Exams, and as a result, the Graduating Classes of 2017 and afterwards may have increased requirements relative to the Keystone Exams. If that occurs, this Board Policy will again be revised to address those requirements.