

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Lisbon School Committee recognizes the need to establish minimum standards for the awarding of a high school diploma that are consistent with State law and regulations and with community educational values and expectations.

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

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 School Committee has approved the below listed courses as the minimum requirements for graduation.

I. FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING AT THE END OF THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR AND BEYOND

A. The student must successfully complete a total of 22 including the 11 credits specified by Maine law. They are:

1. English/language arts – 4 credits;
2. Mathematics – 2 credits;
3. Social studies and history, including one year of American history, civics and personal finance - 2 credits;
4. Science, including at least one year of laboratory study – 2 years;
5. Fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics, or drama – 1 credit.

B. The student must demonstrate computer skills according to the school unit's standards for computer literacy, proficiency, and performance.

C. In addition to the State requirements, the student must meet the following graduation requirements established by the School Committee:

1. Mathematics - 1 credit.
2. Science- - 1 credit.
3. World Language – 1 credit
4. Social Studies – 1 credit (starting with the class of 2027)
5. Physical Education – 1 credit
6. Health - .5 credit

7. Electives – 5.5 credits

- D. Participate in post-secondary planning with LHS School Counselor. The plan may consist of applying to an accredited 2 or 4-year college/university, committing to a branch of the armed forces a job, an accredited apprenticeship program, or any other approved plan to be determined by the LHS administration.
- E. The remaining credits may be selected by the student based upon the student's interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.
- F. Starting with the Class of 2026, students have the option to apply for the Diploma with Distinction. Students can acquire this diploma by submitting an intent form to guidance in their freshman year. This diploma requires 28 credits (the required 22 credit plus an additional 6 credits in the following categories): Liberal Arts, Humanities, Math/Science or Fine Arts. Students will need to maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA overall in the classes pertaining to the distinction.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross Reference: IKFA - Early Graduation
ILA - Testing and Assessment of Students (Local Assessment System)

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