



**STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PANORAMA VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER**

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To: Robert O'Donnell

From: Jason Perrin, Curtis Johnson, and Jacquelyn Martin

Date: November 7, 2016

RE: Revised Policy 217 - Graduation Requirements: Draft Policy and Guidelines

Recently, we recommended a change to Policy 217 (Graduation Requirements). This recommendation was reviewed with the Culture Climate and Learning (CCL) committee of the board. The attached Draft Revised Policy 217 includes an increase in total credits required for graduation from 22.5 credits to 25.0 credits. The main rationale for this proposed increase is to better prepare all students for college and career experiences. As per our prior CCL conversations, this change will impact approximately 20% of our students.

Attached, also please find draft guidelines specific to the number of credits in various academic areas supporting the proposed increase in credits. The draft guidelines allow for 3.0 more credits of student electives (choice) within the proposed 25.0 credit requirement.

STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY NO. 217

SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
ADOPTED: JANUARY 13, 2003
REVISED:
DRAFT: OCTOBER 25, 2016

217. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Purpose (SC 1613)

It shall be the policy of the Board to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the student's interests and needs by the award of a diploma or certificate of attendance at fitting graduation ceremonies and to recognize publicly the top ranking students in each graduating class.

Authority (SC 1611, 1613; Title 22 - Sec 4.13 and 4.24)

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma, a certificate of attendance and appropriate recognition of top ranking student to every student enrolled in this school district who meets the respective requirements established by the Board [and in accordance with state regulations. \[1\]\[2\]\[3\]](#)

Requirements for graduation established by the Board include each of the following options:

1. Completion of instructional program with a minimum of 22.5 credits (class of 2017 through 2019). Completion of instructional program with a minimum of 25 credits (beginning with Class of 2020).
2. ~~Completion of a culminating project.~~
3. Proficiency on assessments as required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Request for a veteran's diploma will be honored in accordance with the guidelines of Act 73 of 2001.

The district recognizes that some students with disabilities may not fully meet district outcomes. Therefore, an Individualized Education Program which will identify the accommodations, modifications, and/or new outcomes will be used to certify graduation. Students who successfully meet Individualized Education Program standards will be eligible for a diploma.

Requirements for a certificate of attendance, which denotes completion of class work at the high school shall be the completion of tasks as defined by the high school principal.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee will establish procedures to implement this policy.

DRAFT Administrative Guidelines

Note: Upon Policy changes, these guidelines will be attached, and also reflected in the Course Selection Guide.

	Current (Class of 2017, 2018, 2019)	Proposed (Class of 2020 & beyond)
English	4	4
Social Studies	4	4
Math	3	3
Science	3	3
Physical Education/Health	4 PE; 2 Health (3.0 Credits)	3 PE; 2 Health (2.5 Credits)
Driver's Education	.25	.25
Electives	5.50	8.25
Community Service	20 hours	20 hours or completed via approved course experiences
Graduation Project	Yes	No
Total	22.5	25.0

The proposed guidelines include three changes to the present requirements.

1. An increase in the elective credits to 8.25.
2. A decrease in the amount of required Physical Education to 3 classes=1.5 credits.
3. Removal of the graduation project.