

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

No 9 b

MEETING OF August 18, 2021

Reviewed By

Item Title

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to temporarily suspend portions of BP 6146.1-
High School Graduation Requirements

Superintendent
 High School Administration

SUBMITTED BY Melissa Brooks-Johnson, Interim Superintendent

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The School Board is being asked to approve temporarily suspending specific parts of Board Policy 6146.1 – High School Graduation Requirements.

ISSUE:

Board Bylaw 9314 allows for suspension of policy for a specific purpose and limited time by a majority vote of the School Board. The suspension of specific graduation requirements is being requested to apply to the 2022 high school seniors due to COVID circumstances. The requirements to be suspended are the:

- Requirement for 100 hours of work experience, community service or combination;
- Requirement to take the WorkKeys, ACT, or SAT assessment.

BACKGROUND:

For the past two years, the School Board has approved a waiver of these graduation requirements due to the COVID pandemic's impact. The district's high school principals (Jason House and Kurt Lindemann) and the high school counselors are recommending that this waiver again be approved, due to the continued impact of COVID, citing the following:

100 hours work/volunteer service: Due to travel restrictions in place, many students were not able to find summer work and will not have accrued the 100 hours to meet the 100-hour work or service requirement.

SAT/ACT/WorkKeys Testing Requirement: Colleges are mostly waiving these test requirements as part of a COVID response, so it may not be necessary for all seniors to take these tests as a condition of graduation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the temporary suspension for one year of the following provisions of BP 6146.1-High School Graduation Requirements and its corresponding AR: 100 hours work/volunteer and the SAT/ACT/WorkKeys testing requirement.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Board Policy 6146.1
- Board Bylaw 9314

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

"I move that the Board of Education, through the authority provided in BP 9314, temporarily suspend for the graduating class of 2022 the following provision of BP 6146.1 (High School Graduation Requirements):
"Additional requirements include 100 hours of work experience or community service and participation in the WorkKeys or ACT or SAT assessment."

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare for Board approval a plan consisting of district graduation requirements. Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after meeting the following district graduation requirements.

Graduation Requirements - Effective Date, Graduating Class of 2021

Graduation course requirements for a high school diploma are as follows:

English-Language Arts	4	credits
Social Studies*	3	credits
Math	3	credits
Science	3	credits
Health	0.5	credits
Physical Education	0.5	credits
Electives	7	credits
Career Technical Education and/or Fine Arts	1	credit
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION	22	credits

Additional requirements include 100 hours or work experience or community service, completion of the State of Alaska Job Application and participation in the WorkKeys or ACT or SAT assessment.

* Note: The three units of credit in social studies must include one-half unit of credit in Alaska history or demonstration that the student meets the Alaska history performance standards. This requirement will not apply to a student who (1) transfers into high school after the student’s second year of high school; or (2) has already successfully completed a high school state history course in another state, 4 AAC -6.075. The three units in social studies must also include one unit of credit of American Government.

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance and Counseling Services)
(cf. 6184 – Virtual/Online Courses)

Legal Reference:

- ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
- 4 AAC 06.075 High school graduation requirements
- 4 AAC 06.721 College and career readiness assessment waivers
- 4 AAC 06.755-790 Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Revision Date: 6/13/2007
Revision Date: 10/14/2015
Revision Date: 8/24/2016
Revision Date: 4/12/2017
Revision Date: 2/26/2020

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTSGraduation

1. Early Graduation - Students with six completed semesters of attendance, may be graduated if the following criteria are met:
 - o Parent's written permission is obtained.
 - o A letter of intention is submitted one semester prior to completion of requirements for graduation.
 - o Administrative approval of the high school principal is obtained.
 - o All graduation requirements for a high school diploma have been completed.
2. Career-Technical Education Requirement - The CTE requirement may be met through the completion of a designated CTE course, or through the completion of a Work Study Course and the requisite number of hours of work or internship experience.
3. Course Load Requirements - A full load of classes is defined as enrollment in 4 credit-bearing classes.
4. Correspondence Courses and/or University of Alaska Courses for credit which have prior approval of the high school principal may be taken for credit toward graduation.
5. Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Top 20 will be determined by Grade Point Average, Strength of Schedule, and other factors as identified in the Valedictorian/Salutatorian Selection Criteria Rubric (Exhibit A).
6. Work Experience/Community Service – One hundred hours of work experience, community service, or a combination of the two is needed for graduation. This 100 hour work experience requirement is separate from the work experience that may be utilized to meet CTE requirements. These hours can be obtained all at once in the same year or spread out over a four year period. Students who enter high school from outside of the district will need to perform twenty-five hours of Work Experience/Community Service for each year they attend secondary school in Ketchikan in order to receive a diploma (e.g. a student entering the District in their senior year would only have 25 hours, junior year 50 hours, etc.)
7. ACT, SAT or Work Keys - Beginning with the class of 2020, all Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District students must take the Work Keys or ACT or SAT assessment to be eligible for graduation.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

8. PE Waiver – Students may earn up to 0.5 physical education credits for participation in an ASAA sanctioned sport any time in their high school career.

PE credits are earned at a rate of 0.5 credits for each season successfully completed, for a total of 0.5 credits.

Students may earn 0.5 credits for participation in 75 hours of physical activity through a recognized organization (such as Ketchikan Theatre Ballet, Ketchikan Youth Soccer League, etc.)

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Revision Date: 10/22/03

Revision Date: 10/08/2014

Revision Date: 6/8/2016

Revision Date: 9/28/2016

Revision Date: 2/26/2020

SUSPENSION OF POLICIES, BYLAWS, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Note: Policies require frequent updating. The School Board should not be forced into a position of strict adherence to policies that need revision or are out of compliance. By allowing the suspension of policy on the rare occasions when necessary, this optional policy ensures that the Board's capacity to govern will not be limited by out-of-date policies. The suspension is a temporary measure to give the Board adequate time to study the issues resulting in the suspension.

Policies, bylaws and administrative regulations may be suspended for a specific purpose and limited time by majority vote. Suspension of any policy, bylaw or administrative regulation shall undergo the following consideration:

1. Policies, bylaws or administrative regulations shall be reviewed on their own merits rather than the circumstances of the moment.
2. The School Board shall decide whether the policy, bylaw or administrative regulation still reflects the intent of the Board and the law. If so, the suspension will be denied and the policy, bylaw or administrative regulation reaffirmed in the minutes.

Superintendent or Designee's Authority

The Superintendent or designee may suspend all or part of any policy, bylaw or administrative regulation when it conflicts with state or federal law or regulations. The Superintendent or designee shall report the suspension to the Board. Suspension shall be valid until the policy, bylaw or administrative regulation is rescinded, amended or reaffirmed.