

PROMOTION GUIDELINES GRADES 9 - 12

Agawam High School utilizes the nationally recognized and universally accepted Carnegie unit system.

Beginning with the Class of 2010, graduation requirements will include the following:

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

1. Four years of English (4 credits)
2. Four years of Mathematics (4 credits)
3. Three years of Science (3 or 4 credits)
4. Three years of Social Studies (3 credits including 2 years of U.S. History).
5. Two years of a foreign language (2 credits)
6. One course in a visual or performing art (.5 credit)
7. One course in instructional technology (.5 credit)
8. Four semesters of physical education/health education (2 credits)

Total number of required credits above = 18. All students **MUST take and pass** 24 units (credits) in order to graduate. All students must carry a minimum of seven (7) credits per year.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to accumulate 24 Carnegie units (24 credits) in order to graduate.

- One Carnegie unit is a full-year course taken every day = 1 credit
- ½ Carnegie unit is a half-year course = .5 credit

A significant portion of the total credits must include specific course requirements. Promotion will take place only at the end of the school year or after the successful completion of summer school. Students may not be re-classed from Grade 9 to Grade 11 despite earning the required 12 credits due to the MCAS requirements in Grade 10. If declassified Grade 10 students pass the MCAS exams, achieve the required 18 credits, and pass their required courses (including English 9 & English 10 and their Math courses), they may be re-classed from Grade 10 to Grade 12. De-classed tenth grade students with 18 credits who have **not** passed their MCAS exams may only be promoted to Grade 11.

Students will be required to pass the following number of credits to be promoted to the next grade level:

- 5 credits to move from Grade 9 to Grade 10, and this must include the successful completion of English and Math
- 12 credits to move from Grade 10 to Grade 11, and this must include the successful completion of English and Math
- 18 credits to move from Grade 11 to Grade 12, and this must include the successful completion of English and Math
- 24 total credits to graduate

Note: Students must earn credits in the required courses (see Graduation Requirements for All Students) as well as in electives.

STUDENTS PLACED OUT-OF-DISTRICT

If a student with a disability is placed in an approved or unapproved private special education program through the recommendation of an IEP Team, the District will ensure that the private educational program is sufficient to meet the local requirements for graduation and accept the grades, courses, and credits awarded by the private educational program, as a way of meeting local requirements for graduation. Therefore, if the student meets all graduation standards of the out-of-district program and passes the MCAS test, the student will be eligible to receive an Agawam High School Diploma.

WAIVERS FROM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Only the Principal can grant waivers exempting individual students from specific graduation requirements. These waivers require identification by the Principal of extenuating circumstances, e.g., a student who attends a full day or partial day collaborative program that necessitates a waiver. No graduation waiver can be granted without this permission and will be issued on a case-by-case basis.

All Agawam High School students or students educated in out-of-district placements, who have not yet passed the MCAS but have met local graduation requirements, as well as the criteria for the state-endorsed credential, will receive a “Certificate of Attainment” and be eligible to walk across the stage on graduation day with their classmates.