

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ADOPTED: 11/11/2013

REVISED: 11/15/2021

**Capital Area School for the Arts
Charter School**

1. Purpose

1.1 The Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School (“Charter School”) wishes to acknowledge each student’s successful completion of Charter School-approved instructional program by an award of a diploma or certificate at graduation ceremonies.

2. Delegation of Responsibility

2.1 The Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) shall develop procedures for implementing this policy which includes the careful recording of each student’s progress and accumulation of graduation requirements; counseling of students to know what is expected of them for completion of their schooling; issuance of periodic warnings to students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements; preparation and submission to the Board for its approval of a list of all candidates for the award of a diploma or certificate; preparation of suitable diplomas and certificates; and the planning and execution of graduation ceremonies which fittingly mark this important achievement.

2.2 High School Graduation requirements and revisions to them shall be approved by the Charter School’s Board of Trustees. The CEO shall develop procedures for publishing and distributing a copy of the requirements to students, parents, and guardians and made available on the Charter School’s publicly accessible website immediately following approval by the Board of Trustees.

3. Guidelines

3.1 The Board of Trustees shall award a high school diploma to every student who meets the requirements for graduation. Such requirements shall include the successful completion of courses of study for a four (4) year high school approved by the Board and which meet the standards set by Commonwealth laws and regulations.

3.2 A student who has completed the requirements for graduation may not be denied a diploma for disciplinary purposes but may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies upon the decision of the CEO.

4. High School Graduation Requirements (Board of Trustees and CEO reserve the right to update requirements as required by new legislation):

4.1

Subject Area	Total
English	4
Mathematics	3 (1 credit must be Algebra I)
Science	3 (1 credit must be Biology)
Social Studies	3 (U.S. Govt., World History, U.S. History)
CASA Art	2 credits per year while at CASA
Physical Education	1
Health	.5
Electives	Up to 5.5 credits (.5 credit must be earned in a live art class)
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25 Total Required	

4.2 Demonstration of academic proficiency

(A) Students can meet the statewide graduation requirement set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Act 158 by any of the following options:

1. **Keystone Proficiency Pathway** - Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam – Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.
2. **Keystone Composite Pathway** - Earning a satisfactory composite score on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. The sum of Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exam Scores must equal 4452 or greater. (while achieving at least a proficient score on at least one of the three exams and no less than a basic score on the remaining two).
3. **Alternate Assessment Pathway** - Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, **and** satisfactorily complete one of the following:
 - a) Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB);
 - b) Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the learner did not achieve at least a proficient score;

- c) Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.
4. **Evidence Based Pathway** - Successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the learner did not achieve proficiency and demonstration of three pieces of evidence consistent with the learner's goals and career plans, including:
- a) One of the following:
 - 1. Attainment of an established score on the ACT WorkKeys assessment, a SAT subject test, an Advanced Placement Program Exam, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Exam;
 - 2. Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework;
 - 3. Attainment of an industry-recognized credential; or
 - 4. Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course; and.
 - b) Two additional pieces of evidence, including one or more of the options listed above, or: satisfactory completion of a service learning project; attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on a Keystone Exam; a letter guaranteeing full-time employment; a certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program; or satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college-bound learner athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
5. **CTE Pathway** - For Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators, successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the learner did not achieve proficiency and attainment of an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator's program of study or demonstration of a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the CTE Concentrator's program of study.

4.3 Special education students

Children with disabilities who satisfactorily complete a special education program

developed by an Individualized Education Program team under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and this part shall be granted and issued a regular high school diploma by the Charter School.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.