Subject:	School Approval Standard:
Required Subjects and Credits for High School Graduation (Algebra Credit)	ED. 306.27(m) table 306-2

This is the sixth in a series of Technical Advisories issued by the Department to clarify the new School Approval Standards.
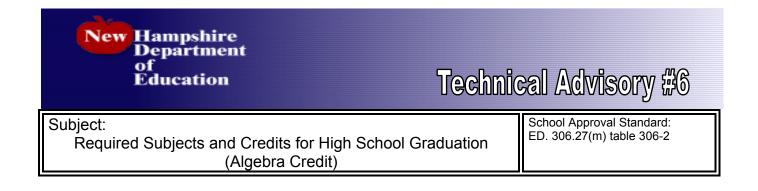
I. Actual Text

Ed 306.27(m) <u>High School Curriculum, Credits, Graduation Requirements, and Cocurricular Program</u>.

(m) The 20 credits required for graduation shall be distributed as specified in Table 306-2:

<u>Table 306-2 Required Subjects and Credits for High School Graduation</u>

Required Subjects	Credit(s)
Arts education	½ credit
Information and communications technologies	½ credit or demonstrate proficiency
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits, including algebra credit that can be earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program
Physical sciences	1 credit
Biological sciences	1 credit
US and NH history	1 credit
US and NH government/civics	½ credit
Economics	½ credit
World history, global studies, or geography	½ credit
Health education	½ credit
Physical education	1 credit
Open electives	6 credits
Totals	20 credits

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II. Department Comment

This Technical Advisory addresses the meaning of algebra credit under the mathematics section of Table 306-2.

Algebra credit means a minimum of a one-credit course in algebra that can be earned through a traditional, sequential, or applied program. The content of the course(s) must address, at a minimum, the concepts and skills identified in the assessment standards of the "Number and Operations" and "Functions and Algebra" strands contained in the *New Hampshire High School Grade-Span Expectations* (GSEs), along with mental mathematics, estimation, and communication.

The Number and Operations (N&O) and Functions and Algebra (F&A) assessment standards appear in boxes with bold outlines in the New Hampshire GSEs and are coded as M(N&O)–10–2, M(N&O)–10–4, M(F&A)–10–1, M(F&A)–10–2, M(F&A)–10–3, and M(F&A)–10–4 . Mental mathematics, estimation, and communication are outlined in M(N&O)–HS–6, M(N&O)–HS–7, and M(CCR)–HS–1, respectively.

A course that contains only pre-algebra concepts will not meet these standards. Traditionally these standards are met in a full year Algebra I course or by the end of the second year of an integrated mathematics program.

Since assessment standards are currently limited to what can be done on a paper-and-pencil large scale assessment, it is advisable that all courses fulfilling the algebra requirement also include concepts and skills from the local (not for statewide assessment) GSEs in addition to the mental mathematics, estimation, and communication GSEs. Currently, the GSEs can be found at http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/curriculum/NECAP/HS_NECAP.htm.

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A school's compliance with this regulation should be transparent to a layperson. Local requirements that fulfill Table 306-2 should be readily apparent through an examination of the school program of studies or its equivalent. Since the title of such courses can vary, the program of studies should clearly identify which courses fulfill the requirement. This requirement may be met in middle school and must clearly be documented on a student's high school transcript. Additionally, meeting the requirement in middle school does count towards the three high school mathematics credits required for graduation if mastery is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the local high school requirement.

III.   For more information on this technical advisory, contact:
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