

Graduation Requirements (Beginning with the Class of 2021)

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential and are prepared for postsecondary and career opportunities, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements for students entering the ninth grade in the 2017-18 school year and each ninth grade class thereafter.

To receive a high school diploma from the district, students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards and measures required by this policy. Students with disabilities shall be provided access to all graduation pathways provided by this policy and shall have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma from the district.

College and career readiness

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted state graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in English and Math. The Board has selected its own measures from these state graduation guidelines.

Students must complete at least one English measure and one Math measure and meet or exceed the measure's corresponding cut score or criteria to demonstrate college and career readiness in English and Math. The Board's approved measures and cut scores are outlined in this policy's accompanying exhibit.

Exceptions to the Board's required measures and cut scores/criteria

If a student has demonstrated college and career readiness by completing an assessment or other measure that is not included in this policy's accompanying exhibit but is included in the state graduation guidelines, the principal or principal's designee may determine that such assessment or other measure is acceptable and meets the district's graduation requirements.

Courses required for graduation

Total number of required credits = 25

1. English: 4 credits
2. Social Studies: 3 credits, including American history (1), civics/government course (.5), economics (.5) and 1 elective credit.
3. Math: 3 credits, including one credit of algebra
4. Science: 3 credits, 1 credit in Life Science, 1 credit in Physical Science, and 1 Science Elective credit
5. Physical Education: 1 credit. All students will be required to have .5 credit of prerequisite PE class called Lifetime Sports and Wellness. Lifetime Sports and Wellness class must be passed in order to take a .5 credit PE elective. Students may not be in Lifetime Sports and Wellness and a PE elective during the same semester.
6. Electives: 10 credits
7. Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP): 1 credit

These credits meet the Capstone requirements set forth by state law.

Units of credit required for graduation

Graduating students shall successfully complete 25 credits in a 7-period day, or its equivalent on an alternative schedule.

All students will maintain a minimum of at least three core classes each semester. Core classes include English, foreign language, speech, journalism, mathematics, social studies, science, business,

and technology, or others as approved by the school principal. In addition, all students will maintain a course load that keeps the student on track to graduate on time.

The Board recognizes that in certain instances, deviations from the requirements may be advisable. Deviations must be approved in writing by the office of the principal. Students may receive a special schedule for part of the school day with this permission.

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

Students entering from outside the district must meet the district's course requirements. The principal or principal's designee shall determine whether credit toward course requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the district.

In accordance with applicable state law, college courses completed pursuant to the student's participation in a "dropout recovery program" shall count as credit toward completion of the district's credit requirements.

Early graduation

The Board of Education believes that most students benefit from four years of high school experience and are encouraged not to graduate early. However, in some cases, students are ready for postsecondary education or other opportunities prior to completing four years of high school. Therefore, the superintendent or designee may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirements in accordance with this policy.

The Board will consider early graduation for students who meet one or more of the following sets of conditions:

1. Successful completion of seven semesters of an approved high school program, which includes all required courses listed in this policy and a minimum of 25 total credits or its equivalent on alternative schedule. The student, when supported by parents and building administrators, should file this request not later than the November Board meeting.
2. Successful completion of an alternative school program or contract school program, which shall be approved in advance. The alternative program shall be developed as an Alternative Education Plan (AEP) by a team including, but not limited to, the high school principal, counselor, student, parent, and the alternative school representative. The contract school shall have graduation requirements that are approved in the school's operating contract with the district. (This will also include consideration of foreign exchange programs and correspondence schools.)
3. Successful completion of:
 - a. Four semesters of approved high school program and an ACT Composite Score of 33 or a SAT Composite Score of 1500.
 - b. Six semesters of an approved high school program and an ACT Composite Score of 30 or a SAT Composite Score of 1400.

Any student who meets these conditions may apply to graduate in the appropriate graduation ceremonies if written intent is sent to the building principal by May 1. Variances do not change the grade status of students.

Adoption date: March 19, 2020

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-104 (*teaching history, culture and civil government*)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(kk) (*Board to establish graduation requirements that "meet or exceed" state graduation guidelines*)
C.R.S. 22-32-132 (*discretion to award diploma to honorably discharged veterans*)

C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (*home-based education law*)
C.R.S. 22-35-101 *et seq.* (*Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act*)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
AEA, Standards Based Education
IHBG, Home Schooling
IHBK*, Preparation for Postsecondary and Workforce Success
IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment
IK, Academic Achievement
IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems