

## 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.

### English

Students must complete at least one of the following measures and meet or exceed the measure's corresponding cut score or criteria to demonstrate college and career readiness in English.

Measure	Cut Score/Criteria
Accuplacer assessment	Score of at least 62 on Reading Comprehension or Score of at least 70 on Sentence Skills
ACT assessment	Score of at least 18 on English.
ACT WorkKeys assessment that demonstrates English readiness, as identified on the accompanying exhibit.*	Score of at least 3 (Bronze level).
Advanced Placement (AP) exam that demonstrates English readiness, as identified on the accompanying exhibit.*	Score of at least 2.
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)	Score in at least the 31st percentile.
SAT assessment	Score of at least 470 on English.
Concurrent enrollment course that demonstrates English readiness, as approved by the district and included in the student's academic plan of study or Individualized Career and Academic	Grade of at least a C.

Plan (ICAP).	
Industry certificate that demonstrates academic and intellectual learning in the subject area of English.	Receipt of the industry certificate and approval by the district-designated team.
District capstone project that demonstrates academic and intellectual learning in the subject area of English.	Completion of the district capstone project and approval by the district-designated team.

### Math

Students must complete at least one of the following measures and meet the measure's corresponding cut score or criteria to demonstrate college and career readiness in Math.

Measure	Cut Score/Criteria
Accuplacer assessment	Score of at least 61 on Elementary Algebra.
ACT assessment	Score of at least 19 on Math.
ACT WorkKeys assessment that demonstrates Math readiness, as identified on the accompanying exhibit.*	Score of at least 3 (Bronze level).
Advanced Placement (AP) exam that demonstrates Math readiness, as identified on the accompanying exhibit.*	Score of at least 2.
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)	Score in at least the 31st percentile.
SAT assessment	Score of at least 500 on Math.
Concurrent enrollment course that demonstrates Math readiness, as approved by the district and included in the student's academic plan of study or Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).	Grade of at least a C.
Industry certificate that demonstrates academic and intellectual learning in the subject area of Math.	Receipt of the industry certificate and approval by the district-designated team.

<p>District capstone project that demonstrates academic and intellectual learning in the subject area of Math.</p>	<p>Completion of the district capstone project and approval by a district-designated reviewer.</p>
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**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 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

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

**Units of credit required for graduation-**

Starting with the graduating class of 2019 students shall successfully complete 25 credits in a 7-period day, or its equivalent on an alternative schedule. Students in the earlier graduating classes shall successfully complete 24 credits.

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 at an earlier age. Therefore, the principal 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 15, 2018

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