

## Graduation Requirements

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements.

### District academic standards

To receive a high school diploma from the district, students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards.

Graduation from high school is a culminating event that results from the foundations built at the elementary and middle levels. Graduation is a collaborative effort among levels in a student's public school career. Each level of school and each staff member or parent who instructs or counsels a student shares responsibility for the ultimate ability of that student to demonstrate proficiency in the district's academic standards and to meet the expectations for graduation.

### Units of credit needed

Graduating students shall successfully complete 25 credits in a 7-period day, or its equivalent on an alternative schedule. The required number of credits for graduation shall be publicized on opening day of the fall semester. Parents of students who have graduation deficiencies shall be notified in writing as soon as possible.

The following criteria shall entitle a student to a high school diploma:

- Achievement of the district's academic standards as demonstrated by mastery of the curriculum that may include, but is not limited to, daily classroom assignments, state and district assessments, classroom assessments, and student participation in, and completion of, assigned projects.
- Completion of 25 credits in grades nine through 12 in the prescribed categories listed below.

### Required credits/courses

Credits	Area	Specific Courses
4	English	
3	Mathematics	1 credit of algebra
3	Science	1 credit in Life Science, 1 credit in Physical Science, and 1 Science Elective credit
3	Social Studies	1 credit in American history, .5 credit in civics/government, .5 credit in economics and 1 credit of electives
1	Physical Education	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.

10	Electives
<u>1</u>	Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)
25	Total

**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.

**Credit from a dropout recovery program**

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.

**Class rankings and grade point averages**

Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class for each high school upon the basis of total grade points for the four-year program, excluding the last semester of the senior year.

Grades for regular classes will be given the following values: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1.

Grades for advanced placement classes or District-approved university credits will be given the following values: A=5, B=4 C=3, D=2.

Students must take classes offered at the school unless principal approves other coursework.

Starting with the graduating class of 2019, each student's total grade points shall be based on the maximum points available at each school. The student with the highest-class rank will be valedictorian. When more than one student holds the numerical one rank, all students holding the rank will be declared co-valedictorians/salutatorians.

After a course has been passed, no future grade earned in the same course shall be used to determine class rank or grade points.

When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade points. Students entering from home-based education programs must submit student work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward class ranking or grade point is sought. Transfer points cannot exceed the maximum points per year at each school.

**Independent study**

Independent study, work experience and experienced-based programs approved in advance by the principal may be taken for high school credit. Students must submit a request for approval that includes a summary of the educational objectives to be achieved and monitored by a faculty member.

### **Student course load**

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.

### **Years of attendance**

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 need the challenge provided by 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.

Adoption date: July 20, 2017

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