

Graduation Requirements

(Classes of 2017 to 2020)

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/guardian 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.

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

- Achievement in the district's academic standards as demonstrated by mastery of the curriculum which 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 credits in grades nine through twelve in the prescribed categories listed below.
- Students are required to be enrolled in 8 periods per day; any exceptions require superintendent approval.
- Credits earned in junior high that are placed on the transcript do not fulfill the high school graduation requirements.

Units of credit needed*

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • English | 4 credits (must include English 9, 10, 11 & 12) |
| • Mathematics | 4 credits (must include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2) |
| • Science | 4 credits (must include Physical & Earth Science, Biology 1) |
| • Social Studies | 4 credits (must include World History/Geography, US History, Government/Economics) |
| • Foreign Language | 1 credit beginning with class of 2019 |
| • Speech | .5 credit |
| • Health | .5 credit |
| • Electives | 9 credits beginning with class of 2019 |
| Total | 27 |

(enough credits to fulfill minimum graduation requirements per policy Exhibit IKF-E)

Example: if a student takes Algebra 1 in the 8th grade, the student will not have to take Algebra 1 in grades 9-12, but the student will still be required to have 4 additional mathematics credits in grades 9-12. Likewise, if a student takes Algebra 1 in 7th grade and Geometry in 8th grade the student will not have to take either class in grades 9-12 but will still be required to have 4 additional mathematics credits in grades 9-12.)

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

All students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements unless waived by the principal. The principal shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the district. Students who are currently enrolled in the district and wish to obtain credit from outside institutions, or through “on-line” programs, must have prior approval from the principal.

The district shall accept the transcripts from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and district academic standards, the district shall require submission of the student’s work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, the district may administer testing to the student to verify the accuracy of the student’s transcripts. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average. 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 average is sought.

The superintendent is directed to establish written processes/procedures for preparation, retention and dissemination of transcripts.

Requests for waiver of any of the above mentioned graduation requirements should be submitted in writing to the high school principal for consideration. The principal may appoint a committee to review each request and reserves the right to disapprove the request for waiver.

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 post secondary 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.

High school students and parents/guardians shall be informed annually regarding student progress toward completion of graduation requirements. All juniors and their parents/guardians will receive documentation of their credit status during the second semester of their junior year.

Adopted: 06/18/73

Revised: 4/25/93, 8/18/85, 1/27/86, 10/26/87, 12/19/88, 02/26/90, 7/27/92, 1/22/01, 4/30/01, 09/24/01, 3/24/03, 2/23/04, 7/19/05, 08/22/05, 9/26/05, 11/26/07 (legal ref./note), 3/28/11, 8/27/12, 10/27/14, 03/30/15, 10/26/15, 1/23/17, 4/24/17, 06/26/17, 3/25/19

LEGAL REF.: 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
 IHEDA, Concurrent Enrollment
 IK, Academic Achievement

NOTE 1: In May 2013, the State Board of Education adopted a comprehensive set of guidelines regarding high school graduation requirements. State law establishes a process for local boards of education to develop their own local graduation guidelines that meet or exceed these state graduation guidelines. The following are the critical dates in this process.

By the beginning of the 2014-15 school year — local school boards must adopt high school graduation requirements applicable to students enrolling in the ninth grade in the 2014-15 school year. These local graduation requirements must “meet or exceed any minimum standards or core competencies or skills identified” in the state graduation guidelines. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(II). Staff at the Colorado Department of Education inform CASB that a local board of education meets this statutory requirement for 2014-15 if: (1) the local board has adopted academic standards that meet or exceed the state’s academic standards, including standards concerning 21st century skills; and (2) the district develops an Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) for every student beginning in at least the 9th grade.

Local school boards must undertake a community-based process to develop a blueprint for the education system in the community and to determine the skills students will need to be successful after graduation. School boards shall seek input from the community at large, which may include students, parents, business persons, neighboring school districts and BOCES. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(I).

Prior to the 2017-18 school year — School boards shall use the blueprint, along with the state graduation guidelines, to establish high school graduation requirements. These local graduation requirements shall be implemented and apply to students enrolling in the ninth grade in the 2017-18 school year, but can be implemented before 2017-18 if the board wishes to do so.

Each school board shall report its blueprint and its new or revised high school graduation requirements to the public through the accreditation process as determined by the State Board. In its report, the school board shall demonstrate how its high school graduation requirements meet or exceed any minimum standards, core competencies or skills identified in the state graduation guidelines. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(II).

NOTE 2: In August 2013, the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission for Higher Education jointly approved the criteria for the postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) high school diploma endorsement. State law permits local boards of education to choose whether to require “demonstration of postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) as a graduation requirement” and also permits boards to choose to grant a PWR endorsement to each graduating high school student who meets the criteria.” C.R.S. 22-7-1016(3), -1017(1)(a). A high school student who graduates with a PWR endorsement is guaranteed admission to some state institutions of higher education and is given “priority consideration” for admission into more selective state institutions of higher education, such as the University of Colorado. C.R.S. 22-7-1017(2).

Sargent School District RE-33J, Monte Vista, Colorado