

## 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/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.

### Units of credit needed

A total of 24.5 credits earned during grades nine through 12 are required for graduation. A credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course which meets five days per week for a minimum of 50 minutes daily for at least 36 weeks or the equivalent. Successful completion means that the student obtained a passing grade for the course.

The following criteria shall entitle a student to a high school diploma beginning with the class 2016:

- 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 24.5 credits in grades nine through twelve in the prescribed categories listed below.
- Completion of the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) which may include modified academic standards.

### Required credits/courses

<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Required Units</u></b>
English	4.0
Social Studies	3.5
Mathematics	3.0
Science	3.0

Health and Physical Education	1.0
Humanities	1.0
Life Skills <del>or Life Management</del>	0.5
<del>Parenting or Teen Challenges</del>	<del>0.5</del>
Computer Applications	0.5
Senior Seminar	0.5
Electives	<del>7.0-7.5</del>
<b>Total Required Units</b>	<b>24.5</b>

### **Credit from other institutions and home-based programs**

All students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements. 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 “online” 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.

### **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 graduation requirements. A student seeking to enroll in a dropout recovery program shall work with his or her high school principal or designee in selecting college courses.

### **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**

The course load for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors shall be a minimum of 7 credits per school year. The course load for seniors shall be a minimum of 5 credits per school year. Students who wish to take less credits in any given school year or semester must obtain advance permission from the 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.

Adopted: March 25, 2015

Revised: April 17, 2019

Revised:

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