

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

All students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards prior to becoming eligible to graduate or complete the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), which may include modified 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 53 high school credits are required for graduation. A credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course which meets four days per week for a minimum of 50 minutes daily for at least 18 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:

- Achievement in content standards as demonstrated by mastery of the curriculum which may include, but is not limited to, daily classroom assignments, the Colorado Student Assessment Program, the district assessment program, classroom assessments, and student participation in, and completion of, assigned projects.
- Completion of the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) which may include modified content standards.

- Completion of 53 high school credits in the prescribed categories listed below.

Required credits/courses

Credits	Area	Required Courses
8	Language Arts	
8	Math	
6	Science	
6	Social Studies	Civics, American History
2	Computers	
2	Fine arts	
2	Physical Education	
6	Academic Electives	
13	General Electives	
Total		
53		

Physical Education

The physical education requirement may be waived if a student completes 3 seasons of a competitive sport. To have the physical education requirement waived, the student must begin and end a full season at any competitive level. The student must participate in practices, and compete at the level appropriate for their ability.

Documentation must be submitted to the principal to support requirements have been met. Having the physical education requirement waived will not alter the number of credits required for graduation.

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.

Class rankings and grade point averages

Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class for each high school upon the basis of grade-point averages 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 will be given the following values: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2.

After a course has been passed, no future grade earned in the same course shall be used to determine class rank or grade point average. The student with the highest-class rank will be valedictorian. When more than one student holds the numerical one rank (rounded to 100th), all students holding the rank will be declared co-valedictorians.

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, juniors and seniors shall be a minimum of 14 credits per school year. Students who wish to take fewer credits in any given school year 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.

(Adoption date)

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

 [IHCD](#), Concurrent Enrollment

 [IK](#), Academic Achievement

 [IKA](#), Grading/Assessment Systems

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\(2\)](#).

Revised: 4/14, 9/16