

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 in the Montezuma-Cortez School district.

Graduation from high school is a culminating event that results from the foundations build 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.

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.

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 measure from these state graduation guidelines.

Students must complete at least one English measure and one Math measure and meet or exceed the measure's corresponding cut score or criteria to demonstrate college and career readiness in English and Math. The Board's approved measures and cut scores are outlined in this policy's accompanying exhibit. **[IKF-E]**

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's accompanying exhibit 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.

Units of Credit and Courses required for Graduation

There are three diploma options that Montezuma-Cortez graduates can achieve including the Honors Diploma, Standard Diploma, and Career & Technical Diploma. The Board's approved units of credit for each are listed below. Units of credit and course requirements for each option are outlined in this policy's accompanying exhibit. **[IKF-E-2]** Requirements to obtain an Honors Diploma are outlined in this policy's accompanying exhibit. **[IKF-E-3]**

Honors Diploma

English	4 Credits
Math	4 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Physical Education	0.5 Credits
Health	0.5 Credits
Fine Art	1 Credits
Foreign Language	2 Credits
Electives	<u>6 Credits</u>
	24 Credits Total

Standard Diploma

English	4 Credits
Math	3 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Physical Education	0.5 Credits
Health	0.5 Credits
Electives	<u>9 Credits</u>
	23 Credits Total

Career & Technical Diploma

English	4 Credits
Math	3 Credits
Social Studies	2 Credits
Science	2 Credits
Physical Education	0.5 Credits
Health	0.5 Credits
Electives	<u>11 Credits</u>
	23 Credits Total

Credits 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. However, in some cases, students are ready for postsecondary education or other opportunities prior to completing four years of high school. Therefore, the superintendent or designee will grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirement in accordance with this policy and its accompanying exhibits.

Revised: November 11, 2014

Revised: August 2018

Revised: December 15, 2020

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

IHBC, Home Schooling

IHBK*, Preparation for Postsecondary and Workforce Success

IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment

IK, Academic Achievement

IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems