

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Board desires that its standards for graduation meets or exceeds the minimum standards of the South Dakota Department of Education as well as those of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Under the Administrative rules of South Dakota all students in grades 9 through 12 must have a Personal Learning Plan. The Personal Learning Plan must document a minimum of 22 units of credit for graduation.

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

The following courses, according to the South Dakota Administrative Rules, will be required for graduation beginning with students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2010-11 school year:

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Language Arts                           | 4 credits or more |
| (a) 1.5 credits of Writing                 |                   |
| (b) 1.5 credits of Literature              |                   |
| (c) .5 credit of Speech or Debate; and     |                   |
| (d) .5 credit of a Language Arts elective  |                   |
| 2. Mathematics                             | 3 credits or more |
| (a) 1 credit of Algebra I                  |                   |
| (b) 1 credit of Algebra II *               |                   |
| (c) 1 credit of Geometry *                 |                   |
| 3. Laboratory science                      | 3 credits or more |
| (a) 1 credit of Biology                    |                   |
| (b) 1 credit of any Physical Science       |                   |
| (c) 1 credit of Chemistry or Physics *     |                   |
| 4. Social Studies                          | 3 credits or more |
| (a) 1 credit of U.S. History               |                   |
| (b) .5 credit of U.S. Government           |                   |
| (c) .5 credit of World History             |                   |
| (d) .5 credit of Geography                 |                   |
| (e) .5 credit of a Social Studies elective |                   |
| 5. Fine Arts^                              | 1 credit or more  |
| 6. Personal Finance or Economics           | .5 credit or more |

7. Physical Education .5 credit or more

8. Effective September 1, 2013\*\*

Health or Health Integration .5 credit or more

9. Effective September 1, 2013 1 credit or more  
(any combination of the following):

- (a) Approved Career & Technical Education courses
- (b) World Languages
- (c) A Capstone Experience or Service Learning

Academic core content credit may be earned by completing an approved career and technical education course. Approval to offer credit must be obtained through an application process with the Department of education. The application must include: course syllabus; standards based curriculum; teacher certification; and assessment of standards by methods including end-of-course exams, authentic assessment, project-based learning or rubrics.

\* With school and parent/guardian approval, a student may be excused from this course in favor of a more appropriate course. A student may be excused from Algebra II or Geometry, but not both. A student is still required to take three credits of Math. If a student is excused from Chemistry or Physics, but not both, the student must still take three credits of Lab Science.

^ Students may be granted up to one credit in Fine Arts for participation in extracurricular activities. A maximum of ¼ credit may be granted for each extracurricular activity each school year. Documentation of the alignment of the activity with fine arts content must be made.

\*\* Beginning with students who are freshmen in the fall of 2013, students will be required to take .5 credit of health at any time grades 6-12. A district may choose to integrate health across the curriculum at the middle or high school level in lieu of a stand-alone course.

Students who are unable to meet the graduation requirements will not be permitted to participate in graduation exercises.

**The Wall Board of Education requirements include the above, but require that students take ½ unit of Senior Experience and 1 unit each of Geography, World History, & U.S. Government/SD History.**

**Approved 12/10/13**

*Notes: ASBSD sample policies are intended to be a guide for school districts. As is the case with any policy, a local school district's unique circumstances, challenges and opportunities need to be considered.*