

## **Graduation Requirements**

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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 entering the ninth grade.

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. Students with disabilities and students involved in the criminal justice system must be provided access to all graduation pathways provided by this policy and must have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma from the district.

### **College and Career Readiness**

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted state graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in English (Reading, Writing, and Communicating) and Math (Mathematics). The Board has selected its own measures 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.

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.

### **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.

### **Credit 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 must determine whether credit toward course requirements will 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 consider accepting 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. In accordance with applicable state law, college courses completed pursuant to the student's participation in a "dropout recovery program" must count as credit toward completion of the district's credit requirements.

### **Class rankings and grade point averages**

Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class for 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.

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.

### **Awards for achievement**

The selection of the valedictorian or salutatorian shall be based on the grades received during the four years of high school. To be eligible for these honors, a student must have been enrolled in Simla High School for the last three consecutive semesters.

### **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 7 credits per school year.

### **Early Graduation**

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 are ready for postsecondary education or other opportunities prior to

completing four years of high school. Therefore, the superintendent or designee, with board approval, may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirements in accordance with this policy and its accompanying exhibit.

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LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-104 (*teaching history, culture, and civil government*)

C.R.S. 22-1-104.7 (2)(a) (*requirement to incorporate Holocaust and Genocide studies standards into existing course required for graduation*)

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*)

C.R.S. 22-108-103 *et seq.* (*justice-engaged student's bill of rights*)

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