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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 26 credits earned during grades nine through twelve are required for graduation. The amount of credit earned for the successful completion of a course can be found in the course description guide. 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 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 26 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

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
Computer Literacy	1 credit *
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	2 credits
Social Studies	3 credits **
Physical Education	1 credit
Health	.5 credit
Personal Living or Personal Finance	.5 credit
Electives	11 credits
Total	<hr/> 26 credits

* .5 credit of Introduction to Computers or Computer Applications required. The other .5 credit may be taken from an elective that utilizes computer applications.

** Must include 1 credit of American History and .5 credit of American Government. The state requirement of 1 credit in Civics is met by the curriculum in both American History and American Government.

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 as defined in JGA & JGA-R.

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 6 credits per school year. Students who wish to take less 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.

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

