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Graduation Requirements

Graduates must be prepared for professional careers and vocations now and in the future that require a highly-trained workforce. Towards this end, competitive graduates are active participants in high quality, educational experiences that provide rigorous and engaging courses and activities for successful post secondary preparation. In addition to mastery of robust academic skills, students should also be well-rounded citizens who embody teamwork, leadership and character.

The following graduation requirements represent a college and career preparatory road map to assist all graduates and their families plan for post secondary success in a highly competitive, global market.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2020-2021, students shall complete the following graduation requirements (these requirements will be phased in beginning with the 9th grade class of 2017-2018):

COMPONENTS OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All of the following three (3) requirements must be met in order to graduate:

- 1) **COURSEWORK** – Graduates will complete a total of 26 credits in grades 9-12 to graduate.
- 2) **POST SECONDARY READINESS** – Graduates will demonstrate post secondary readiness in both English and Math as outlined in the Demonstration of Post Secondary Readiness Menu.
- 3) **POST SECONDARY PLAN** – Graduates will develop and complete a post secondary plan.

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.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF COURSEWORK

A total of 26 credits shall be earned in grades 9 through 12 including completion of subject area requirements for graduation from a district high school. Students must be enrolled full-time each of their years in high school. (Full-time enrollment is defined by the Colorado Department of Education.)

Students who take an aligned course at the middle school will receive credit toward their total of 26 credits. Aligned courses are defined as those courses taught at both the middle and high schools that use the same curriculum and have the same outcomes. Credits earned while a student is in middle school will count toward graduation requirements, but will not be included in the student's overall grade point average. Grade point average will be determined by courses taken in grades 9 through 12.

Required credits/courses

<u>Subject</u>	<u>EHS Requirement</u>	<u>FHS Requirement</u>
Computer Literacy	1 credit *	1 credit **
English	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits	3 credits
Science	3 credits	3 credits
Social Studies	3.5 credits ***	3 credits ****
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit
Health	.5 credit	.5 credit
Personal Living or Personal Finance	.5 credit	.5 credit
Electives	8.5 credits	9.75 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit	-----
Portfolio/Senior Board	-----	.25 credit
Total	<u>26 credits</u>	<u>26 credits</u>

Required credits/courses *(continued)*

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

** .5 credit of Introduction to Computers or Computer Applications required. The other .5 credit is earned by successfully passing an online course.

*** Must include 1 credit of U.S. History, 1 credit of World Geography, 1 credit of World History and .5 credit of U.S. Government. The state requirement of 1 credit in Civics is met by the curriculum in both U.S. History and U.S. Government.

**** Must include 1 credit of U.S. History and .5 credit of U.S. Government. The state requirement of 1 credit of Civics is met by the curriculum in both U.S. History and U.S. 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 fewer credits in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the principal.

SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF POST SECONDARY READINESS

Students must demonstrate post secondary readiness in English and Math based upon at least one measure listed in the Elizabeth School District Menu of Post Secondary Readiness Demonstrations below:

Assessment	English Minimum Score	Math Minimum Score
ACCUPLACER	62 on Reading Comprehension	61 on Elementary Algebra
ACT	18 on ACT English	19 on ACT Math
ACT Compass	79	63
ACT WorkKeys	Bronze or Higher	Bronze or Higher
Assessment	English Minimum Score	Math Minimum Score
Advanced Placement	2	2
ASVAB	31	31
Concurrent Enrollment	Passing grade per district and higher education policy	Passing grade per district and higher education policy
District Capstone	Individualized	Individualized
Industry Certificate	Individualized	Individualized
International Baccalaureate	4	4
SAT	430	460

The school district will provide students access to at least one post secondary readiness measure in English and Math at no additional cost to the student. This measure will be the assessment provided to all districts by the Colorado Department of Education. Additional readiness measures may be provided to students at the discretion of the Board of Education. Readiness measures completed through other school districts or outside organizations will be accepted and must be reviewed and approved by the school principal.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF POST SECONDARY PLAN

A Post Secondary Plan is a multi-year plan that intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic and post secondary pathways. The plan will assist the student and student's parent/guardian with meaningful planning for career and post secondary success. Beginning at the middle school levels, students will begin the exploration of career, academic and post secondary pathways in preparation for high school.

In ninth grade, students will develop and maintain a Post Secondary Plan throughout high school. Use of the state's ICAP process may fulfill this requirement.

For students who are receiving special education support and services, collaboration will occur between the IEP team and the school to determine if a student will have a Post Secondary Plan and an IEP Transition Plan or only an IEP Transition Plan to meet graduation requirements.

Years of attendance

The Board of Education believes that most students benefit from four years of high school experience. However, in some cases, students need the challenge provided by post secondary 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 board 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