

## Graduation Requirements

Currently, a total of 23.5 credits shall be earned in grades 9 through 12 including completion of subject area requirements for graduation from a District high school. Effective for the graduating class of 2011, a total of 24.5 credits will be required. (Please see specific content area requirements.) Students must be enrolled full-time each of their years in high school as defined by each school schedule.

Sixteen quarters of attendance beyond the 8<sup>th</sup> grade also shall be required unless the student qualifies for early graduation.

Course credit shall be granted on the following basis:

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| 1. Satisfactory completion of nine-week courses<br>in schools using a quarter system: | .25 credit hour |
| 2. Satisfactory completion of 18-week courses*:                                       | .5 credit hour  |
| 3. Satisfactory completion of 36-week courses*:                                       | 1 credit hour   |

\*Students in schools using block schedules where students take a maximum of four courses during a term may earn these credits in half the time indicated.

Schools may designate specialized courses such as Driver's Education and student aide to carry .25 credit.

Courses are listed below in the sequence and at the grade level they should be offered. Changes in sequence or grade level must be approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services.

Of the 23.5 required credits, 8 shall be elective and 15.5 shall be distributed as follows:

Subject	Credits	Grade	Distribution
English	4	9	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade English
		10	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade English
		11	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade English (to include American Literature)
		12	Elective English course(s)
Social Studies	3	9 or 10	World Studies (History and Geography)
		10 or 11	United States History
		11 or 12	United States and Colorado Government

Subject	Credits	Grade	Distribution
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Mathematics	3	9 10	Appropriate Entry-Level Course Appropriate Course (Preparatory Math/Pre-Algebra is a course at the 9th and occasionally the 10th grade level for students needing more work prior to entering high school math courses. This course carries elective credit only and may not be used to fulfill mathematics graduation requirements except when a student is placed in specialized programming.)
		11	Appropriate Course
Science	2*	9-12	Appropriate Lab-based Course *Effective for the graduating class of 2011 this Science credit requirement will increase to 3.
Physical education	2	9-12	
Practical arts	.5	9-12	
Fine arts	.5	9-12	
Health	.5	9	Teen Challenges/Healthy Choices
General Electives	8	9-12	

A cumulative total of no more than two credit hours for satisfactory completion of approved, on-line, independent study, correspondence and/or senior alternative make-up courses may be accepted in meeting these requirements.

No course credit shall be granted for less than a “D-” grade in a course.

A student shall not be scheduled for graduation at the end of any regular school year in which they need more credits than normally may be earned in one year (seven to eight depending on the type of schedule).

A student shall not be scheduled for graduation at the end of any semester in which they need more credits than normally may be earned in a semester (three and one-half to four depending on the type of schedule).

Students transferring into the District in twelfth grade may have credits earned in our District certified to the school of prior attendance for graduation.

Credit for satisfactory completion of home study or non-accredited private school hours may be accepted in accordance with Board policy in meeting these graduation requirements.

Individual cases of hardship may be handled on merit by the building principal.

Special education program requirements for graduation shall be determined by the building staffing team.

### **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 “on-line” programs, must have prior approval from the principal.

The District shall accept 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.

### **Definitions:**

Graduation – when a student has met requirements and discontinued school attendance. Note: Following graduation, a student is no longer eligible to enroll in District courses including postsecondary option courses.

In order to graduate, a student will have:

1. Met or exceeded minimum Board requirements,
2. Completed the senior year (earlier departure is possible by obtaining permission for early graduation), and
3. Received a final transcript with a graduation date indicated.

Graduation Exercises (Commencement) – the ceremony celebrating graduation, held annually in the spring. Attendance at commencement is not required for a student to graduate and receive a diploma.

Transcript – the only official document which is maintained by the school district after graduation therefore, the only official documentation of graduation.

Diploma – an unofficial certificate issued at commencement signifying graduation.

Adopted February 28, 1968

Revised April 10, 1985

Revised September 9, 1992  
Revised February 9, 1994  
Revised January 24, 2001  
Revised May 22, 2002  
Revised June 9, 2004  
Revised September 14, 2005  
Revised May 23, 2007  
Revised March 12, 2008

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education law)  
C.R.S. 22-1-104 (teaching history, culture and civil government)  
C.R.S. 22-32-132 (Discretion to award diploma to honorably  
discharged veterans)

CROSS REFS.: IHCDA, Postsecondary Options/Concurrent Enrollment  
IHDB, Adult High School/GED Programs  
IKFA, Early Graduation  
JGA, Assignment of New Students to Classes and Grade Levels  
IKFB, Graduation Exercises

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