

Graduation Requirements (Beginning with the Class of 2021)

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 in the 2017-18 school year and each ninth grade class thereafter.

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 shall be provided access to all graduation pathways provided by this policy and shall 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 and Math. The Board has selected its own measures from these state graduation guidelines.

Students must complete at least one English measures 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.

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.

Courses required for graduation and Units of credit required for graduation

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 credits in grades nine through twelve in the prescribed categories listed below.
- Students are required to be enrolled in 8 periods per day; any exceptions require superintendent approval.

- Completion of the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) which may include modified academic standards.
- Credits earned in junior high that are placed on the transcript do not fulfill the high school GPA/graduation requirements.

Units of credit needed*

- English* 4 credits (must include English 9, 10, 11 & 12)
- Mathematics* 4 credits (must include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)
- Science 4 credits (must include Physical & Earth Science, Biology 1)
- Social Studies 4 credits (must include World History/Geography, US History, Government/Economics)
- Foreign Language 1 credit (2 recommended)
- PE 1 credit
- Electives 8 credits

Total 26

For the class of 2021 elective credits will increase to 11 (total 29) and class of 2022 and beyond elective credits will increase to 12 (total 30)

*Must also meet graduation guidelines

Example: if a student takes Algebra 1 in the 8th grade, the student will not have to take Algebra 1 in grades 9-12, but the student will still be required to have 4 additional mathematic credits in grades 9-12. Likewise, if a student takes Algebra 1 in 7th grade and Geometry in 8th grade the student will not have to take either class in grades 9-12 but will still be required to have 4 additional mathematic credits in grades 9-12.)

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

All students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements unless waived by the principal. 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.

When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average. Students entering from home-based education programs must submit student work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward class ranking or grade point average is sought.

The superintendent is directed to establish written processes/procedures for preparation, retention and dissemination of transcripts.

Requests for waiver of any of the above mentioned graduation requirements should be submitted in writing to the high school principal for consideration. The principal may appoint a committee to review each request and reserves the right to disapprove the request for waiver.

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 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.

High school students and parents/guardians shall be informed annually regarding student progress toward completion of graduation requirements. All juniors and their parents/guardians will receive documentation of their credit status during the second semester of their junior year.

Adoption date: 1/23/17

Revised: 4/24/17, 3/25/19, 02/24/20

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

Sargent School District, Monte Vista, Colorado