

## **Graduation Requirements**

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential, the Board of Education recognizes that high school shall be generally considered as a four-year course of study. Therefore, graduation requirements are based on units of credit earned in grades nine through twelve. A unit of credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course, which meets the required hours of instruction as defined in state law.

In order to prepare students for a successful post-secondary educational and work experience, the Board of Education strongly encourages students to participate in a rigorous academic core curriculum consisting of 4 years of English, 4 years of Mathematics, 4 years of Science and 4 years of Social Studies and at least 2 years of a World Language as required by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education for admission to four-year public colleges and universities in Colorado.

### Minimum Units of Credit Needed to Graduate

Beginning with the class of 2009, a minimum of 22 units of credit shall be necessary for high school graduation. In addition to the 16.5 required units, all other credits shall be considered as electives and may be selected from the entire curricular offering.

Minimum credit requirements in various areas shall be as follows:

<u>Subject Requirement</u>	<u>Credit Requirement</u>
<u>Academic Core Subjects:</u> *	
English*	4.0 units
Mathematics*	3.0 units
Science*	3.0 units
Social Studies*	3.0 units (including one unit of American History and .5 unit of Civics/Government)
Physical Education**	2.0 units (including .5 unit in health.)
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	<u>1.5 units</u>
Minimum Total of Required Units	16.5 units
Minimum Total of Elective Units	<u>5.5 units</u>
<b>MINIMUM TOTAL</b>	<b>22 units</b>

\*Academic core subjects include English, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Languages. All students will be expected to enroll in a minimum of four academic core units per year. Beginning with the class of 2007, seniors will also be expected to enroll in four academic core units or a minimum of three AP/IB courses. Any consideration of a waiver of this expectation

will be approved on an individual basis by the principal or administrative designee. Academic Waiver Requests must be submitted on form IKF-1-E.

\*\* Student athletes who have completed a season of athletics may be granted a one-time waiver of .5 of the required 1.5 units of physical education. This waiver does not reduce the total number of units required for graduation. Academic/Physical Education Waiver Requests must be submitted on form IKF-2-E.

#### Credit from Other Institutions and Home-Based Education 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. Credits will be accepted from accredited institutions or as evaluated by principals.

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. All students from home-based programs must demonstrate proficiency in the district-adopted content standards at their appropriate placement level before being placed in that particular grade. The district may test the student to determine placement.

#### 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.

#### State and District Content Standards

The Board of Education recognizes that high expectations and high standards for student achievement are necessary so that students will be well prepared for continuing education and entry into the work force. Therefore, in addition to earning the required number of credits, graduating students will be required to meet State and district content standards.

These performance requirements may be waived by the building principal for a special education student, but only if consideration of his/her individualized educational plan suggests that a waiver is necessary. Other circumstances which require special consideration such as learning needs, health situations, emergencies, and conditions which are beyond the student's ability to control, may also be the basis for granting a waiver by the principal, or the creation of an individualized learning plan for the student.

Credit shall be conferred by the Board of Education through its administrative personnel. Each building principal shall exercise professional judgment to meet the individual needs of students.

Revised: March 20, 2006

Adopted: April 10, 2006

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education law)

CROSS REF.: IHCDA, Post-secondary Options/Concurrent Enrollment

AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment

IGBH, Home Schooling