

Graduation Requirements

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 [or 2018-19] 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 must be provided access to all graduation pathways provided by this policy and must 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 (Reading, Writing, and Communication) and Math (Mathematics). The Board has selected its own measures from these state graduation guidelines.

Students must complete at least one English measure 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

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The Sangre De Cristo School District Board of Education has established graduation requirements that each student must meet in order to receive a high school diploma.

District Academic Standards

Graduation is a collaborative effort among all levels in a student's school career. Every staff

member who instructs or guides a student shares responsibility for the ability of that student to demonstrate proficiency on the District's academic standards and to meet all of the requirements for graduation. All students must meet or exceed the District's academic standards prior to becoming eligible to graduate.

Course Credit Requirements

A total of 26 credits aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards are required for graduation. Course credit requirements for graduation are as follows:

English	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science*	3.0
Social Studies	3.0
Physical Ed	2.0
Business	2.0
Fine/Practical Arts	1.0
<u>Electives</u>	<u>7.0</u>
Total Required Credits	26.0

*Note: Science requirements; Physical Science, Biology, and Chemistry or Biology 2

Students who are on an ALP, ELP, or IEP will be provided access to all graduation pathways and will have the opportunity to earn a diploma.

Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)

Students are required to develop and work toward all goals listed in their Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP). IKF-R outlines District expectations for each student's ICAP.

Demonstration of College and Career Readiness: In addition to passing the 26 credits outlined on the first page of this policy, starting with the Class of 2021, students must demonstrate English and mathematics proficiency. Options for demonstrating proficiency are outlined in IKF-E-3.

Online Coursework

Credits earned through the District's online program will apply toward graduation at the same rate as brick and mortar courses. Completion of a one semester online course equals one-half credit toward graduation. There is no limit to the number of District online courses that a student can take, however; enrollment will be based on a recommendation from the Counselor, Principal and Director of the online program and transcripts will reflect online courses.

Credit from other institutions and home-school programs

All students entering from outside the District must meet the SDCSD graduation requirements. The Principal shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the District. Credits applied toward graduation must be earned at District high schools with the following exceptions:

1. **Credits transferred from another high school** (or junior high school if the student attended 9th grade at a three year junior high) in which the student was officially enrolled.
2. **Credits earned through accredited non-District coursework.** Expenses shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Students who are currently enrolled in the District and wish to obtain credit from accredited correspondence courses, outside institutions, or outside online programming must have prior approval from the Counselor and/or Principal. Credits earned through non-District institutions may be verified through Administration. Students are limited to three credits. Any exceptions will need to be approved by the Principal.
3. **Credits earned through concurrent enrollment options** will be honored pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute. Application for participation is to be made through the Counselor. A semester college course will be considered equal to a semester high school course in terms of credit. A three credit college course will be awarded 0.5 credit on the high school transcript.

Credits earned through a home-school educational program. The District will evaluate transcripts from a home-school educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with District requirements and District academic standards, the District requires 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 home-school transcripts. The District may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing. District transcripts will reflect that credit was acquired through a home-school experience.

Foreign Exchange Students

A foreign exchange student will not receive a diploma but may participate in the high school graduation ceremony.

Higher Education Admission Requirements

Note: Meeting the Higher Education Admission Requirements does not guarantee admission to a four-year institution. Colleges and universities, both in and outside of Colorado, may have additional requirements. Students and parent/guardians are responsible for understanding the requirements.

In accordance with applicable state law, college courses completed pursuant to the student's participation in a "dropout recovery program" must count as credit toward completion of the district's credit requirements.

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.

Adopted: 9-12-2023

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. [22-1-104](#) (teaching history, culture and civil government)
C.R.S. [22-1-104.7](#) (2)(a) (requirement to incorporate Holocaust and Genocide studies standards into existing course required for graduation)
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