

The Academy
Submittal to the Academy Board

Moved by Julia Wainson
2nd by Jess Laszlo

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Y/N/P/A	Name
y	Laszlo, J.
y	Miller-Carlson, T.
y	Robinson, J.
y	Stock, M.
y	Swanson, R.
y	Zamora, Joe

Topic: High School Graduation Requirements

Issue(s):

Under the current system students are required to earn 24 credits to graduate, with the opportunity to earn 32 credits. For the current year there are a few students that have met the required credit and class requirements and would be eligible to graduate early. There are other students that need only a few specific credits/classes and are filling their schedule with multiple physical education classes, art classes, etc.

Background:

The Academy Board approves the graduation requirements for the school. By contract, the Academy is required to meet or exceed the graduation requirements of the District (Adams 12). Three years ago, the Academy changed to offer 8 courses each semester. This provides a total of 32 credit earning opportunities for High School students at the Academy. The current graduation requirement is set at 24 credits as shown in the attached document. With the increased credit opportunities, the Administration (with the support and approval of the Academic Committee) proposes an increase in the graduation requirements for the High School. The proposed change is also attached.

Evaluation:

Summary of major changes:

1. The Academy will establish a two-tiered graduation requirement - each with 28 credits required. The first is listed as the minimum requirements and will earn a diploma from The Academy. The second is a more academic rigorous program designed to better prepare our graduates for "high end" college acceptance (i.e. Ivy League schools, etc.) and will earn an Academy Scholar diploma.
2. The Academic committee recommends making the new requirements effective starting with the class of 2015. HS Principal and Academic Counseling will do an evaluation of each student to determine the impact on students. Waivers could be provided for those students adversely affected by the change. Waivers could also be provided for students transferring into the Academy from schools with less rigorous graduation requirements.
3. The Academy is considering adding a community service requirement in the future. The added requirement will be presented to the Board after additional review at a later date.

Recommendation:

Approve the change to the Academy graduation requirements to 28 credits and a two-tiered diploma system with the following stipulations: the Class of 2015 would be required to have 28 credits. The High School Principal will complete a review of the next year seniors to identify any students that would be adversely affected by the increase in credits and would have the authority to waive the additional requirements on a case by case basis.

REFERENCES:
(CIRCLE ONE)

DISTRICT POLICY #: _____ WAIVER – YES, NO

Date submitted: December 16, 2013 Submitted by: David Flaxdeen

Approved: [Signature] Denied/Postponed: _____



The Academy High School Graduation Requirements (Proposed) Compared to Adams 12 & Higher Education Admission Requirements

	Min.	Academy Scholar	Adams 12		HEAR	
English	4	4	English	4	English	4
Social Studies Gov't Civics .5 World Geo. 1.0 World Hist. 1.0 U.S. History 1.0	4	4	Social Studies	3	Social Studies (1 must be US Hist. or World Hist)	3
Math (Must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or equivalents)	4	4	Math	3	Math (Must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or equivalents)	4
Science 2 Lab Based	3	4	Science	3	Science 2 Lab Based	3
World Lang. Must be same lang.	2	3	World Lang.	0	World Lang.	1
Computer Tech	2	2	Practical Art	1		
Fine Arts	1	2	Fine Art	1		
Physical Education .5 Health .5 PE	2	2	PE and Health	2		
General Electives	6	3	Electives	6	Electives	2
Minimum Total Credits	28	28 At least 2 credits are required to be AP or College Level credits	Minimum Total Credits	23	Total Credits	17

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