

Instruction

Graduation Requirements

The School Board determines high school graduation requirements that will provide each student ample opportunity to achieve the purpose for which the School District exists and that meet the minimum graduation requirements contained in State law.

To graduate from high school, each student is responsible for:

1. Completing all District graduation requirements that are in addition to the State requirements.
2. Completing all courses as provided in the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-22.
3. Completing all minimum requirements for graduation as specified by Illinois State Board of Education rule, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.
4. Passing an examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Participating in State assessments that are required for graduation by the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5., Students graduating in the Spring of 2020 are exempt from the state’s final accountability assessment (currently the SAT).
6. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, filing one of the following: (1) a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Dept. of Education, (2) an application for State financial aid, or (3) an Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) waiver form indicating that the student understands what these aid opportunities are and has chosen not to file an application. If the student is not at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student’s parent/guardian must file one of these documents on the student’s behalf.

A student is exempt from this requirement if: (1) the student is unable to file a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver due to extenuating circumstances, (2) the Building Principal attests the District made a good faith effort to assist the student or the student’s parent/guardian with filing a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver form, and (3) the student has met all other graduation requirements.

Unless otherwise exempted, each student must successfully accomplish the following classes to graduate from high school:

Course	High School Diploma	Spring 2020
English	4 years (8 credits) that follows the approved course sequence	3.5 years (7 credits)
Social Studies	3 years (6 credits) 1 year Global Studies (2 credits)	2.5 years (5 credits) including one year of U.S. History and one year of additional course content. One semester of

	1 year U.S. History (2 credits) 1 semester U.S Civics & Government. (1 credit) 1 semester Economics (1 credit)	American Government is not required. 12th-grade students are exempted from the Constitution test requirement
Mathematics	3 years of Mathematics (6 credits), that follows the approved course sequence, including Algebra and Geometry content. An Advanced Placement computer science course may be approved as meeting one year of the Math requirement. ¹	2.5 years (5 credits) of Mathematics), that follows the approved course sequence, including Algebra and Geometry content. An Advanced Placement computer science course may be approved as meeting one year of the Math requirement. ¹
Science	3 years (6 credits) of Science that follows the approved course sequence, including Physical Science and Life Science content	2.5 years (5 credits), which includes Physical Science and Life Science content
Physical Education**	3.5 years (7 credits) (Can get exemptions.)	3 years (6 credits)
Health	1 semester (1 credit)	None
Art, Music, World Language (including American Sign Language), or Vocational Education	1 year (2 credits)	.0.5 years (1 credit)
AP Class***	None required	None required
Electives	Electives to bring total to 48*** credits	Electives bring the total to a minimum of 40 credits
Total	48 credits****	40

¹ If RPS offers an Advanced Placement computer science course to high school students, then the school board must designate that course as equivalent to a high school mathematics course and must denote on the student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative course.

**Per Illinois School Code, if student graduates earlier, the number of required physical education credit hours is reduced according to number of semesters enrolled.

***Students who enroll in AP classes are required to take AP exams as outlined in Administration Regulation 6.280R

**** Students who entered a Rockford Public High School prior to the 2012/2013 school year are required to complete a total of 40 credit hours to graduate.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for:

1. Maintaining a description of all course offerings that comply with the above graduation requirements.
2. Notifying students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) of graduation requirements.
3. Developing the criteria for the examination on patriotism, et al (as described in #4 above) as well as a method for recording that fact in the student's school record.
4. Complying with State law requirements for students who transfer during their senior year because their parent(s)/guardian(s) are on active military duty. This includes making reasonable adjustments to ensure graduation if possible, or efforts to ensure that the original (transferor) school district issues the student a diploma.
5. Taking all other actions to implement this policy.

Early Graduation

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures for students to graduate early, provided they finish 6 semesters of high school and meet all graduation requirements.

Certificate of Completion

A student with a disability who has an individualized education program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's 4 years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed 4 years of high school (and as more fully described in the Administrative Regulation). The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her high school graduation class. The Superintendent or designee shall provide timely written notice of this requirement to children with disabilities and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

Foreign Exchange Students

A foreign exchange student may participate in the graduation ceremony, of his or her high school graduation class, whether or not they have met the academic graduation requirements. Such students who have not met the academic graduation requirements will receive a certificate of attendance rather than a diploma. Foreign exchange students will

not be included in class rankings established by grade point average, and will not be eligible for honors status at the graduation ceremony.

Service Member Diploma

The District will award a diploma to a service member who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the U.S. Armed Forces or an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict, provided that he or she: (1) resided within an area currently within the District at the time he or she left high school, (2) left high school before graduating in order to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, and (3) has not received a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) diploma.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/22-27, 5/27-3, and 5/27-22, and 5/27-22.10 and 70/1 et. seq.
23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6.30, 6.310, 6.320, 7.50

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