

# ***Dell Rapids School District #49-3***



## **Policies and Regulations Code: – Instruction**

### **IKF/IKFA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/EARLY GRADUATION**

The Board of Education desires that its standards for graduation meet the minimum standards of the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs as well as those of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The minimum requirements from the state of South Dakota for a basic diploma from a four-year high school is 22 credits.

Dell Rapids High School requires a minimum of 24 credits in order to be awarded a high school diploma

Dell Rapids High School students need the following to graduate:

- 4.5 credits of English
- 3 credits of Social Studies
- 3 credits of Math
- 3 credits of Science
- 1 credit of Computer Science
- 1 credit of Fine Arts
- ½ credit of Physical Education
- ½ credit of Health (Students usually fulfill this requirement in middle school health – it is a transcribed course; however, the grade does not factor into students' GPA calculation.)
- 1 credit of the following – any combination –
  - Approved Career and Technical Education
  - World Language
  - Service Learning

Students who are more than one credit away from completion of graduation requirements and are unable to meet the graduation requirements will not be permitted to participate in graduation exercises. However, students who are within the one credit completion requirement and have made arrangements to finish course work may participate but will not receive their diploma until completion of all course work.

Students with an active IEP may earn a Dell Rapids School diploma by meeting the South Dakota basic (minimum requirements) diploma requirements. Students with an active IEP who do not meet either graduation requirement or intend to receive extended services, will receive a Certificate of Achievement and participate in all graduation activities.

Certain vocational education courses may be used to partially satisfy required course credit.

A student whose previous high school enrollment has been entirely in non-accredited schools or in alternative instruction pursuant to SDCL 13-27-3 may receive a high school diploma from the Dell Rapids Schools only if that student has met all graduation requirements of the School District as determined by following Policy JG-R-“Transfers from Non-Accredited Schools” and has been enrolled as a full-time student in the Dell Rapids High School for the full senior year.

### Early Graduation

Graduation in less than four full academic years will be discouraged. However, students who choose to consider early graduation would need to meet the following criteria:

- A. Complete a minimum of seven (7) semesters.
- B. Be ineligible for all high school activities during the second semester.
- C. Complete an audit of course requirements with the counselor to determine if enough credits exist to graduate. Only correspondence courses that were approved by the principal will be included for early graduation.
- D. Arrange a conference with the principal and counselor and parents prior to registration for the student's senior year.
- E. Complete all senior course requirements during the first semester of the senior year.

Any exceptions to the above criteria may only be made by a majority vote of the Board of Education.

LEGAL REFS.: ARSD 24:03:06:06:01

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