

Graduation Requirements

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements.

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 Communicating) 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.

District academic standards

To receive a high school diploma from the district, students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards prior to becoming eligible to graduate.

Graduation from high school is a culminating event that results from the foundations built at the elementary and middle levels. Graduation is a collaborative effort among levels in a student's public school career. Each level of school and each staff member or parent/guardian who instructs or counsels a student shares responsibility for the ultimate ability of that student to demonstrate proficiency in the district's academic standards and to meet the expectations for graduation.

Units of credit needed

Students must complete the minimum number of semester credits in the academic areas outlined below to qualify for graduation. In addition, students must demonstrate college and career readiness in English and math based on at least one measure approved by the Board of Education. Graduation requirements will be based on units of credit earned in grades 9-12 including four years and/or eight semesters of full-time attendance. A total of 24 credits earned during grades nine through twelve is required for graduation.

Required credits/courses

<u>Credits</u>	<u>Area</u>
4	English
3	Math
3	Science
3	Social studies

1.5	Physical education (1 semester must be taken in the 9 th grade year)
.5	Health (must be taken in the 9 th grade year)
4	Academic Electives (2 semesters/1 year World Language Required)
4	General Electives
1	Fine arts
24	Total

Academic electives include English, math, science, social studies, and world language classes taken in excess of the stated requirements. General electives include all other elective courses other than academic electives.

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

Students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements. The principal, or designee, must determine whether credit toward graduation requirements will 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 “online” programs, must have prior approval from the principal.

The district must 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 must require 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 students’ transcripts. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

Credit from dropout recovery program

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 graduation requirements. A student seeking to enroll in a dropout recovery program must work with their high school principal or designee in selecting college courses.

Middle School Credit

High school credit may be awarded to middle school students for courses taken during middle school years provided that at least one of the following conditions are met (middle school classes validated for high school credit will be designated as such on a student’s transcript):

- Students take the class at a District high school
- Students will receive high school credit if classes taken are a part of Gifted and Talented plan (ALP)
- Classes taken at the middle school are of the same level of course rigor as high school, validated and approved by the appropriate Content Facilitator.

Class rankings and grade point averages

Class rank will be based on the weighted cumulative GPA for all GPA’s less than or equal to 4.0. For GPA’s over 4.0, total bonus points will determine class rank.

Grades for unweighted classes will be given the following values: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1.

Grades for weighted (advanced placement, dual, and concurrent enrollment) classes will be given the following values: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=1.

When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades may not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average.

Students entering from home-based education programs must submit student work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward class ranking or grade point average is sought.

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.

Student course load

The course load for freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors must be a minimum of seven credits per school year. Students who wish to take fewer periods in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the principal.

Years of attendance

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 need the challenge provided by postsecondary education or other opportunities at an earlier age. Therefore, the principal may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all other district graduation requirements.

Adopted: February 28, 1984

Revised: January 21, 1992

Revised: April 27, 1993

Revised: March 29, 1994

Revised: August 29, 2001

Revised: May 26, 2010

Revised: July 27, 2011

Revised: October 26, 2011

Revised: July 25, 2012

Revised: November 29, 2012

Revised: May 29, 2013

Revised: November 17, 2014

Revised: January 25, 2017

Revised: June 14, 2017

Revised: November 18, 2020

Revised: November 17, 2021

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 applicable to students enrolling in 9th grade beginning in the 2012-13 school year*)

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*)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
IHA, Basic Instructional Program
IHBG, Home Schooling
IK, Academic Achievement
ILBA, District Program Assessments
ILBB, State Program Assessments

Fountain-Fort Carson School District #8, Fountain, Colorado