

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 State law.
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 State law.
6. 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 as of the 2022/2023 School Year		High School Diploma as of 2023/2024 School Year
English/Language Arts	4 years (8 credits) that follow the approved course sequence		4 years (8 credits) that follow the approved course sequence
Social Science	3 years (6 credits) 1 year Global Studies (2 credits)		3 years (6 credits) 1 year Global Studies (2 credits)

	<p>1 year U.S. History (2 credits)</p> <p>1 semester U.S Civics & Government (1 credit)</p> <p>1 semester Economics (1 credit)</p>		<p>1 year U.S. History (2 credits)</p> <p>1 semester U.S Civics & Government. (1 credit)</p> <p>1 semester Economics and Financial Literacy (1 credit)</p>
Computer Literacy	<p>For students entering the 9th grade in the 2022-2023 school year, 1 year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be English, social studies, or any other subject and which may be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.</p>		<p>For students entering the 9th grade in the 2023-2024 school year, 1 year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be English, social studies, or any other subject and which may be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.</p>
Writing-Intensive Courses	<p>2 years of writing-intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. If applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.</p>		<p>2 years of writing-intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. If applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.</p>
Mathematics	<p>3 years of Mathematics (6</p>		<p>3 years of Mathematics (6</p>

	credits), that follow 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		credits), that follow the approved course sequence, including Algebra and Geometry content. A Mathematics course that includes Geometry may be offered as an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or career and technical education course. ²
Science	3 years (6 credits) of Science that follow the approved course sequence, including Physical Science and Life Science content.		3 years (6 credits), 2 years of which must be Laboratory Science and follow the approved course sequence, including Physical Science and Life Science content.
Physical Education**	3.5 years (7 credits) (Can get exemptions.)		1 year 2 credits) (Can get exemptions.)
Health	1 semester (1 credit)		1 semester (1 credit)
Pathway Courses, Fine Arts, World Languages	1 year (2 credits)		3 years (6 credits) chosen from Pathway Courses,

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.

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(including American Sign Language), or Forensic Speech (Speech and Debate)			Fine Arts, World Languages, (including American Sign Language), or Forensic Speech (Speech and Debate). A Forensic Speech course used to satisfy the course requirement under Language Arts may not be used to satisfy this course requirement.
AP Class***	None required		None required
Electives	Electives to bring total to 48*** credits		Electives to bring total to 45*** credits
Total	48 credits****		45 credits****

**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

****Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, 2 years of a world language which may include American Sign Language. A student may choose a third year of world language to satisfy the Pathway Courses, Fine Arts, World Languages, or Forensic Speech requirement.

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 #4 above.
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 four years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed four years of high school. 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.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/22-27, 5/22-87, 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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