

Billings School District 2

INSTRUCTION

High School Graduation Requirements

- 4 credits in English
- 2 credits in Mathematics
- 1 credit in World History
- 1 credit in American History
- 1/2 credit in American Government
- 1/2 credit in a senior Social Studies course
- 1 credit in Biology
- 1 credit in Earth Science or Physics or Chemistry
- 1 credit in Physical Education and Health
- 1 credit in the Visual or Performing Arts
- 1 credit in Career Technical
- 7 credits elective

21 credits will be required for graduation

To be graduated from a Billings high school, a student shall have been in attendance in grades 9-12 in a school for no fewer than eight (8) full semesters, unless an exception is granted by the Superintendent or their designee.

Notes

1. A student complying with the above meets the graduation requirements of the Montana State Board of Public Education.
2. A senior transfer student who does not desire a Billings public high school diploma should, at the time of enrollment, make arrangements with the principal for the eventual transfer of credits earned in Billings to the school from which the student does desire to graduate.
3. For students with disabilities, the IEP Team may waive specific accreditation standards and prescribe an alternative course of study. Those students who successfully complete the goals identified on an individual education program (IEP) shall be eligible for graduation and be awarded a diploma.

Diplomas

A diploma specifying high school graduation shall be awarded upon successful completion of the requirements for graduation as established by the Board of Trustees.

Secondary Transfer Credit Acceptance (Grades 9-12)

- A. Students desiring credit for courses taken at a previous school shall provide:
1. Official transcript from a school accredited by the Montana Board of Public Education.
 2. Official transcript from a school accredited by a private or parochial school accreditation agency.
 3. Documentation by a non-accredited private or home school which includes:
 - a. The school's name, location, and administrator/teacher of record.
 - b. List of all courses taken at a non-accredited private or home school.
 - c. Documentation of regular attendance in the private or home school during the school year for which transfer credit is requested.
 - d. A curriculum guide outline, or other materials which will substantiate the content for each course for which transfer credit is requested.
 - e. Documentation of certification that the student demonstrated a passing level in each course for which credit is requested.
 - f. Other appropriate measures or demonstrations of student's achievement that can be provided by the private or home school.
 - g. The above documentation will be discussed through a parent-counselor/administrator conference.
- B. Evaluation of credits of students who enter our school District from other accredited or non-accredited private or home schools will be directed to the administration and/or counseling department of the receiving high school.
1. Grade placement is determined by accepted credits, and includes considerations for the age and identified abilities of the student.
 2. If the parent or guardian of a student does not agree with the placement, they may appeal to the Superintendent or his designee.

Montana Youth Challenge Academy Diploma

Billings Public Schools allows students who complete the Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) to receive a high school diploma. The board approves the awarding of a Billings Public Schools alternative diploma to any BPS/MYCA student who meets the following criteria: 1) Completes the Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) program of study, 2) Pass the HiSET exam at MYCA, and 3) Receive an endorsement from the BPS administrative team.

Educational Disruption

If a student who has experienced an educational disruption meets the minimum high school credit requirement for graduation as established by the administrative rules of the Board of Public Education but will not meet a higher credit requirement established by the Board of Trustees, the District shall award the student a diploma. The district may distinguish the diploma in a reasonable manner from standard diplomas used under this policy.

For the purposes of this policy, "educational disruption" means a disruption experienced during grades nine through twelve caused by homelessness, involvement in the child welfare system or juvenile justice system, a medical or mental health crisis, or another event considered a qualifying disruption by the District.

Implementing Policy 2410 High School Graduation Requirements

Cross References: Policy 6430 Development of Administrative Procedures

Legal References: 10.55.905, ARM Graduation Requirements

Procedure History:

Issued by Superintendent on: February 28, 2005

Presented to Board on: March 21, 2005

Revised on: March 17, 2015

Revised on: February 4, 2020

Revised on: August 21, 2023