

Title: High School Graduation Requirements

Students in the Council Bluffs Community School District must fulfill the requirements for high school graduation as established by the Iowa Department of Education and the Council Bluffs Community School District Board of Education. The District recognizes a three-tiered approach for completing graduation requirements. The Traditional Diploma is the option that the majority of students will complete. The Honors Diploma reflects a more rigorous option that requires advanced courses and a greater number of credits earned. The Core Diploma reflects an alternative option for students who need to meet graduation requirements in a differentiated manner. Both the Honors Diploma and Core Diploma require approval from the high school and district administrators, counselor(s), and parent(s)/guardian(s). Approval is provided through an application process that should occur no sooner than the second semester of the student's third year of high school. The Core Diploma is not applicable for early graduation, and students must be in a four-year (or more) high school course of study.

The requirements for each type of diploma are listed below.

**TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

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English:	8 credits
English 9 or Advanced English (2)	
English 10, Year-long AP/CE English Course (2)	
English 11 or Year-long AP/CE English Course (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Creative Writing (1)	
Novel Studies (1)	
Intro to Journalism (1)	
Public Speaking CE (1)	
Writing for the Workplace CE (1)	
Year-long AP/CE English Course (2)	
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Mathematics:	6 credits
Algebra 1 (2)	
Geometry (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Algebra 2 (2)	
Money Matters (1)	
Technical Math 1 CE (1)	
Technical Math 2 CE (1)	
Statistics CE (1)	
College Algebra CE (1)	

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Trigonometry CE (1)	
Calculus 1 CE (1)	
Calculus 2 CE (1)	

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Science:	6 credits
Earth & Space Science (2)	
Biology (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Conceptual Chemistry & Physics (2)	
Chemistry (2)	
Physics (2)	

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Social Studies:	6 credit
World History (2)	
US History (2)	
Government (1)	
Economics* (1)	

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Physical Education: (unless Policy 606 or 281–IAC 12.4(5)f applies)	4 credits
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Electives:	16+ credits
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Traditional Diploma Credits for Graduation	46-57 credits
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*\*Satisfies financial literacy requirement*

CORE DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

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English:	8 credits
English 9 or Advanced English (2)	
English 10, Year-long AP/CE English Course (2)	
English 11 or Year-long AP/CE English Course (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Creative Writing (1)	
Novel Studies (1)	
Intro to Journalism (1)	
Public Speaking CE (1)	
Writing for the Workplace CE (1)	
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Mathematics:	6 credits
Algebra 1 (2)	
Geometry (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Algebra 2 (2)	
Money Matters (1)	
Technical Math 1 CE (1)	
Technical Math 2 CE (1)	
Statistics CE (1)	
College Algebra CE (1)	
Trigonometry CE (1)	
Calculus 1 CE (1)	
Calculus 2 CE (1)	

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Science:	6 credits
Earth & Space Science (2)	
Biology (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Conceptual Chemistry & Physics (2)	
Chemistry (2)	
Physics (2)	

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Social Studies:	6 credits
World History (2)	
US History (2)	
Government (1)	
Economics* (1)	

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Physical Education: (unless Policy 606 or 281–IAC 12.4(5)f applies)	4 credits
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Electives:	8+ credits
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Core Diploma Credits for Graduation	38-45 credits
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*\*Satisfies financial literacy requirement*

### HONORS DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

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English:	8 credits
English 9 or Advanced English (2)	
English 10, Year-long AP/CE English Course (2)	
English 11 or Year-long AP/CE English Course (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Creative Writing (1)	
Novel Studies (1)	
Intro to Journalism (1)	

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Public Speaking CE (1) Writing for the Workplace CE (1) Year-long AP/CE English Course (2)	
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Mathematics:	8 credits
Algebra 1 (2)	
Geometry (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Algebra 2 (2)	
Money Matters (1)	
Technical Math 1 CE (1)	
Technical Math 2 CE (1)	
Statistics CE (1)	
College Algebra CE (1)	
Trigonometry CE (1)	
Calculus 1 CE (1)	
Calculus 2 CE (1)	
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Science:	6 credits
Earth & Space Science (2)	
Biology (2)	
Two credits (2) from:	
Conceptual Chemistry & Physics (2)	
Chemistry (2)	
Physics (2)	
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Social Studies:	6 credits
World History (2)	
US History (2)	
Government (1)	
Economics* (1)	
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Physical Education: (unless Policy 606 or 281-IAC 12.4(5)f applies)	4 credits
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Electives:	26+ credits
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Honors Diploma Credits for Graduation	58+ credits

*\*Satisfies financial literacy requirement*

Additionally, to earn an Honors Diploma, students must successfully earn at least eight credits in advanced courses, which include Advanced Placement (AP) and Concurrent Enrollment (CE) courses.

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Advanced courses such as Concurrent Enrollment and Advanced Placement with similar content may be used to meet graduation requirements. ~~☒~~ Students will receive credit toward graduation requirements for equivalent high school courses taken in middle school.

After school and District requirements for graduation have been met, graduating seniors may be excused from instruction for up to five days. If additional days are added to the regular school calendar because of inclement weather, a graduating senior who has met the District's requirements for graduation may be excused from attendance during the extended school calendar.

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their individualized education program (IEP). Prior to the student's graduation, the IEP team shall determine that the graduation requirements have been met.

With the exception of special education students in one of two circumstances, no student is allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies unless all graduation requirements have been met.

The two exceptions are special education students who have completed all school-based graduation requirements, and 1) have been approved by the IEP team exclusively for post-secondary study or 2) have been approved solely for community-based or other life skills services. Although these categories of students may participate in commencement, no diploma will be issued until such time as the student's IEP team certifies that the student is exited from special education due to graduation.

There will be no issuing of blank diplomas pending completion of summer school work or, in the case of special education students, pending completion of IEP requirements.

A student who has been home schooled (participated in competent private instruction) may be considered for a diploma under the following limited circumstances:

1. Prior to registration for high school course work, the home school student must present a portfolio of work or present other evidence deemed appropriate by the building principal that would allow the principal to judge the student's eligibility for high school course work.

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2. The principal's decision regarding a student's grade level placement is final.
3. At a minimum, the student must register and attend his/her attendance area high school for the junior and senior year as a full time student, abiding by all rules, regulations and policies relevant to his/her status.
4. No credits will be issued for course work completed while home schooled.
5. The student must pass 24 credits, including those courses normally required of juniors and seniors in addition to eligible electives. If a student enters high school as a full time student prior to the junior year, then the student would be held accountable for course work from that point of entry.
6. The student's transcript will indicate that portion of his/her high school career that was completed while in home schooling and the grades of all coursework attempted while registered as a full time student.

Cross References:

606

Legal References:

Iowa Code 256.11; 257.6; 279.8; 281 IAC  
12.1(7), 12.5(5); Individuals with  
Disabilities Education Act

Approved: Mar. 21 1994

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