

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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## Montana High School Association Eligibility

1. The rules of the Montana High School Association fully govern the eligibility of any and all students with regard to participation in all forms of extra-curricular activity.
2. MHSAA requires that students must have passed 20 hours of instruction per week in credited classes the previous semester for eligibility. Students are allowed to take two (2) classes that are not conducted within the brick and mortar of the school.
3. Only the grades of A, B, C, D, and P are passing grades. "F" and "IN" grades are NOT passing grades.
4. Summer school classes do not count toward eligibility.

## Billings Public Schools Graduation Requirements

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Requirement

In order to ensure high school success, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students must be proficient in reading and math skills.

Required:

A 9<sup>th</sup> Grade student who scores below proficiency in reading upon exit from 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to take a reading class.

A 9<sup>th</sup> Grade student who scores below proficiency in math upon exit from 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to take Pre-Algebra.

**To graduate from Billings Public Schools, a student shall have earned a minimum of (21) credits in grades nine through twelve from an accredited high school.**

### High School Graduation Requirements

4 credits in English  
2 credits in Mathematics  
1 credit in World History  
1 credit in American History  
½ credit in American Government  
½ credit in a Social Studies elective  
1 credit in Biology  
1 credit in Earth Science or Physics or Chemistry  
1 credit in Health and Physical Education  
1 credit in the Visual or Performing Arts  
1 credit in Career Technical Education  
7 credits elective

### High School Graduation Requirements

Beginning with the graduating class of 2027 students will complete ½ credit of Financial Literacy or Economics within the current requirements of 21 credits. Courses that will apply are:  
\*Personal Finance (½ credit CTE)  
\*Economics (½ credit Social Studies)  
\*Accounting (½ credit CTE)  
Career Center  
\*Jobs for Montana Graduates (½ credit CTE)  
\*Business Algebra (½ credit CTE, ½ cr Math)

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 an accredited high school for no fewer than eight (8) full semesters, unless an exception is granted by the Superintendent or their designee.

A student complying with the above meets the graduation requirements of the Montana State Board of Education. For complete requirements see School District Policy 2410.

## **Valedictorian Criteria**

1. Honors and AP classes will be weighted. This means that those classes will be awarded an extra point in the GPA system. An A = 5, a B = 4, and a C = 3. D and F grades will remain D's and F's.
2. The student with the highest weighted grade point average after eight semesters of high school course work will be deemed valedictorian. In the case of a tie, multiple valedictorians will be recognized.
3. All students vying for valedictorian must earn at least 24 credits.
4. Of those 24 credits, all required courses for graduation must be completed.

**For the purpose of determining valedictorian, High School GPA and Class Rank will be calculated at the end of eight (8) semesters as follows:**

1. All weighted grades will be included first.
  2. All non-weighted grades up to 24 credits will be included next.
  3. If a student has more than 24 credits, any additional non-weighted A's will not be included.
- Grade Point Average (GPA) is based on four years of high school. Grades and credit from eligible classes taken prior to enrollment in high school will be reflected on the transcript, but not calculated in the GPA (i.e. Middle School Algebra 1 and Honors Geometry).
  - The credit, if earned at middle school, will still be awarded. The course and grade will be reflected on the high school transcript.
  - Class Rank: In the weighted system, GPA will be rounded to the nearest hundredths. Class rank and percent will be calculated on the rounded GPA. This protocol will compensate for variations in GPA beyond the nearest tenth due to students taking full or extended course schedules.
  - Please visit with your child's counselor for assistance in completing college scholarships and/or college applications that ask for Class Rank and/or Class Percentile.

**Graduation Academic Recognition:** Students will be given academic recognition at graduation as follows:

Highest Honor: 3.9 or Higher GPA

High Honors: 3.89 -- 3.75 GPA

Honors : 3.74 -- 3.50 GPA

## **NCAA Clearinghouse**

NCAA Freshmen-Eligibility Standards

Quick Reference Sheet

Know the Rules

Core Courses

For more information regarding the rules, please go to [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Click on "Academics and Athletes" then "Eligibility and Recruiting." Or visit the Eligibility Center Web site at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).

\*\*\*Students are encouraged to visit with their High School Counselor.

\*\*\*Please call the NCAA Eligibility Center if you have questions: toll-free number: 877-262-1492.

## **NAIA**

Students who wish to attend NAIA Colleges as an athlete should visit the eligibility center at [www.playnaia.com](http://www.playnaia.com).

\*\*\*Students are also encouraged to visit with their High School Counselor.