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Boulder High School

Boulder, Colorado

2025-2026
 College
 Admission
 Profile

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School and Community Description

Boulder High School (BHS) is located in Boulder, Colorado, and our mission is to graduate civically engaged students who are college and career ready. Nestled at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, Boulder is located 25 miles northwest of Denver. At an elevation of 5,430 feet, the city's population is approximately 106,800, and its diverse culture complements its special beauty. Supported by computer, aerospace, scientific, and research firms, plus numerous small businesses, Boulder is clearly the entrepreneurial center of the Front Range. The University of Colorado, which includes a 143-acre research park, encourages a productive relationship with the private sector. The Boulder Valley School District covers more than 500 square miles and 11 communities, including mountain, urban, and plains areas. There are 36 elementary schools, 17 middle schools, 12 four-year high schools, and a vocational-technical center. We also offer concurrent enrollment at the University of Colorado and other institutions of higher education for juniors and seniors.

Founded in 1875 as the Preparatory School for the University of Colorado, Boulder High provides a comprehensive education for grades 9–12 with an enrollment of approximately 1,830 students. As an Advanced Placement (AP) Focus School, Boulder High offers one of the most comprehensive programs in the state. Furthermore, our visual and performing arts have an excellent reputation, and our pottery, photography, and video production studios and science labs are state of the art. *U.S. News* ranks Boulder High in the top 4% of schools in Colorado and top 4% nationally.

Enrollment

Boulder Valley School District (BVSD): 25,400 students
BHS Student Body 2025–26: 1,830 students
BHS Class of 2026: 523 students
% of Graduates Who Enroll in 4-Year College: 85%
% of Graduates Who Enroll in 2-Year College: 10%

Demographics*

White: 61% **Asian:** 2% **Black:** 1%
Hispanic: 30% **Multietnic:** 5% **Other:** 1%
 *Self-reported ethnicities
Students in Free and Reduced Lunch Program: 29.4%

Curriculum

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

Boulder High has been designated by the Boulder Valley School District Board of Education as an AP Focus School and awards a Boulder High AP Achievement Recognition Cord. The AP program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It allows high school students to undertake college-level academic learning in AP courses and gives them the opportunity to show that they have mastered the advanced material by taking AP exams. Note that, in some cases, scheduling conflicts may impact a student's AP course load. Students can receive credit, advanced placement, or both from thousands of colleges and universities that participate in the AP program.

The AP Achievement Recognition Cord

Boulder High School offers an AP Achievement Recognition Cord for students who meet the College Board criteria. To be eligible for a BHS AP Achievement Recognition Cord, students must qualify for one of the following AP Scholar Awards from College Board before May 1 of their graduation year: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction, AP International Diploma.

Weighted Courses

In addition to the 30 AP courses, Boulder High offers 22 courses labeled "Advanced" in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and World Languages (level 3 and above).

Advanced & AP Curriculum (30 AP & 22 Advanced)

World Languages

Any World Language, Level 4
 AP French
 German 3-Pre AP
 AP German
 Spanish Language Arts Advanced
 AP Spanish 5
 AP Spanish Literature & Culture
 AP Latin
 AP Japanese
 Latin 3-Pre AP

Language Arts

AP English Language & Comp.
 AP English Literature & Comp.
 9th Grade English LA Advanced
 10th Grade English LA Advanced

Mathematics

AP Calculus AB
 AP Calculus BC
 AP Precalculus
 Precalculus Advanced AB & BC
 Algebra 1 Advanced
 Algebra 2 Advanced
 Geometry Advanced
 AP Statistics
 Calculus 3

Computer Science

AP Comp Science Principles
 AP Comp Science A

Science

Anatomy Physiology Advanced
 Astronomy Advanced
 AP Biology
 AP Chemistry
 AP Physics C
 AP Environmental Science
 Biology Advanced
 Chemistry Advanced
 Physical Science Advanced
 Physics Advanced
 Research Seminar in Science

Social Studies

AP European History
 AP U.S. History
 AP Human Geography
 AP U.S. Government & Politics
 AP World History
 AP Psychology
 AP Macroeconomics
 AP Microeconomics
 AP African American History
 AP Art History

Visual Art

AP Art & Design
 AP Music Theory

Graduation Requirements for Class of 2026

In the Boulder Valley School District, a student must successfully complete a minimum of 220 credits in grades 9–12, and 100 of these credits must be earned in grades 11–12. Ten credits are equivalent to one full year of study in a specific subject. Completion of coursework in Money Management/Personal Finance and Computer Applied Technology are also required.

Language Arts	40 credits	Physical Ed	15 credits
Social Studies	30 credits	Health	5 credits
Math	20 credits (includes Alg. 1)	Fine Arts	5 credits
Science	20 credits (10 life; 10 physical)	Practical Arts	5 credits
World Language	10 credits (level 2+)	Electives	70 credits

GPA & Class Rank

- Weighted courses consist of AP and advanced courses, with the exception of Algebra 1 Advanced.
- All courses in grades 9–12 with a letter grade of A–F are used in computing the student’s GPA.
- Both the weighted and unweighted GPAs appear on the transcript. The weighted GPA is calculated based on the average of the grades from all unweighted and weighted courses.
- Class rank is not reported per BVSD policy.

The following letter grades are used with grade points awarded to each letter as follows:

Letter Grade	Regular GPA	Weighted GPA
A	4 points	5 points
B	3 points	4 points
C	2 points	3 points
D	1 point	2 points
F	0 points	0 points

P/F = Course being taken on pass/fail basis
 WP = Withdraw passing, not included in GPA
 WF = Withdraw failing, not included in GPA
 CW = Credit waived
 NG = No grade

Grad+ Opportunities & Accomplishments

The GRAD+ Framework is a BVSD initiative designed to increase postsecondary opportunities in both higher education and workplace arenas. Boulder High School GRAD+ opportunities include 5 concurrent enrollment courses taught by FRCC credentialed BHS teachers, 3 CU Succeed Programs taught by credentialed BHS teachers in a BHS classroom setting, Seal of Biliteracy, work-based learning, and industry certification support.

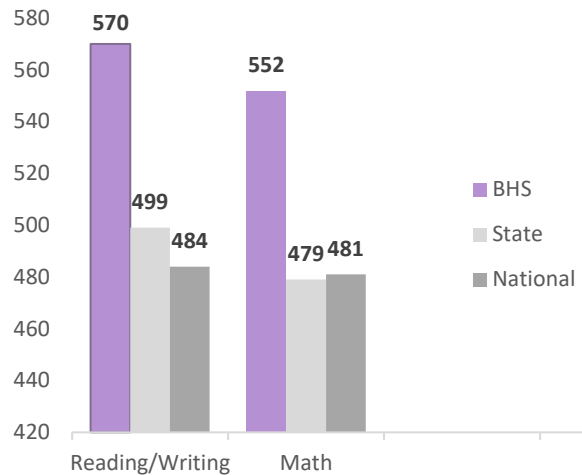
During the 2024-25 school year, BHS students accomplished the following: 134 Seals of Biliteracy earned; 1,061 concurrent or dual enrollment college credits completed; 37 work-based learning accolades awarded; and 59 industry certifications accrued.

Academic Year, Schedule, & Transcript Grades

Boulder High School is on a two-semester system and a block schedule is used. Classes meet four days a week, with three 53-minute periods and one 85-minute period. **Please note how semester grades are listed on our transcript:**

Semester 1 = Term 2
 Semester 2 = Term 4

SAT Results for the Class of 2026



Advanced Placement

In 2025, 828 students took 1,579 AP Exams in 30 subject areas. Scores of 3 and above (of a possible score of 5) were earned by 87% of students.

Year	2023	2024	2025
AP Scholars	109	149	122
AP Scholars with Honors	62	57	63
AP Scholars with Distinction	103	142	157
AP International Diploma	2	2	

National Merit Finalists	2022	2023	2024
	4	4	3



Boulder High School ~ A Place for Everyone
 Est. 1875