

Great Falls School District

INSTRUCTION

2410R

Publication of Graduation Requirements

Prior to registering in high school, each student will be provided with a copy of the current graduation requirements. Graduation requirements shall also be included in the student handbook.

High School Graduation Requirements

Minimum requirements for graduation from Great Falls Public Schools shall be twenty-three (23) credits:

- Four (4) credits of English – In addition to the previously Board adopted communication arts curriculum, students must demonstrate proficiency in Public Speaking/Communication Skills and Writing each year to earn credit.
- Three (3) credits of Social Studies. Two- and one-half credits (2.5) shall be from the required District curriculum and one-half credit (.5) may be an elective Social Studies course.
- Three (3) credits of Mathematics, which shall include Integrated Math 1.
- Three (3) credits of Science, which shall include the following:
 - One (1) credit in Earth and Space Science or of an additional science elective upon Demonstration of Equivalent Proficiency in Earth and Space Science.
 - One (1) credit in Biology
 - One (1) credit in Science Elective
- Two (2) credits of Health Enhancement (Health and Physical Education) – (can be taken grades 9-10-11-12). One- and one-half credits (1.5) shall be from the required District curriculum and one-half credit (.5) may be an elective Health Enhancement course.
- One (1) credit of Career and Vocational/Technical Education (CTE), which may include Agriculture, Business, Family and Consumer Science, Industrial Technology, JROTC, and/or medical/Health Occupations. Courses in Media Production, Graphic Arts/Publications, Stagecraft, and Video Productions may qualify for CTE credit dependent on the state teacher licensure requirements.
 - *Students who elect the Concentration Diploma or Honors Diploma option may substitute one half credit of Financial Literacy for this requirement.
- One (1) credit of Fine Arts (Art, Drama, Music).
- One-half (.5) credit Financial Literacy which shall be delivered through Personal Finance, Consumer Econ, or Consumer Math.
- A minimum of five and one half (5.5) credits of General Electives.
- Special education students who have successfully completed their IEP leading to completion of high school will be awarded a diploma.

Differentiated Diplomas

Students may choose to pursue one (1) of three (3) diploma options. All of which meet the Montana Board of Public Education minimum requirements for graduation from an accredited High School program (10.55.905, ARM) and all of the minimum requirements for graduation from Great Falls Public Schools. Students shall work with their high school guidance counselors, teachers and parents to determine which option best meets their individual needs.

Comprehensive Diploma

Subject Area	Comprehensive Diploma
Credits Needed	23
English	4
Math	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Fine Arts	1
CTE	1
Health/PE	2
Financial Literacy	.5
General Electives	5.5

Concentration Diploma

Subject Area	Concentration Diploma
Credits Needed	23
English	4
Math	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Fine Arts	1
CTE	.5-1
Health/PE	2
Financial Literacy	.5
General Electives	5.5-6.0

Students choosing this diploma option must take three (3) or more elective credits in a specific area of concentration from the following concentrations:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) – includes health sciences
- Career Pathways Concentration (Industrial Technology, Business, Family Consumer Science)
- Fine Arts/Humanities

Honors Diploma

Subject Area	Honors Diploma
Credits Needed	26
English	4
Math	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Fine Arts	1
CTE	.5-1
Health/PE	2
Financial Literacy	.5
General Electives	8.0-8.5

Honors diploma candidates must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3, six (6) or more credits in any combination of honors, AP, or early college level courses.

Alternative Programs

A student may be given credit for a course satisfactorily completed in a period of time shorter or longer than normally required and, provided that the course meets the District's curriculum and assessment requirements, which are aligned with the content standards stated in the education program. Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for planned learning experiences from accredited programs, such as summer school, university courses, and correspondence courses, extension, and distance learning courses, adult education, summer school, work study, work-based learning partnerships, and other experiential learning opportunities, custom-designed courses, and challenges to current courses. The District shall accept units of credit taken with the approval of the District and which appear on the student's official school transcript. Credit for work experience may be offered when the work program is part of and supervised by the school.

Dual Credit

Dual credit allows high school students to simultaneously earn credit toward both a high school diploma and college coursework that can lead to a postsecondary degree or certificate, or toward transfer to another college. The primary purpose of offering dual credit courses is to deliver high quality, introductory, college level courses to high-performing high school students. Students interested in dual credit opportunities must meet with a guidance counselor to determine available options.

Students should be aware of Montana High School Association academic and attendance eligibility requirements for activity participation.

Audit Courses

1 Courses may be audited for no credit by junior or senior students if the course is not specifically
2 requested for graduation. Advanced Placement courses may not be taken for audit. Preference in
3 the course will be given to students taking the course for the first time for credit.

4 5 Grade Averaging (Re-taking a Course)

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7 All courses attempted will be recorded on the transcript, with documentation of the student's
8 performance. The overall grade-point average will be calculated using all grades recorded for all
9 courses attempted, and that grade-point average will be used for purposes of student ranking
10 without regard to whether any courses were repeated. Preference for enrollment in all courses
11 will be given in the following order, based on space available: students taking the course for the
12 first time; students repeating the course after previously failing to receive credit for the course;
13 and students repeating the course after previously receiving credit for the course, with students
14 who have lower grades having preference. Exceptions may be made to the preference order upon
15 recommendation of the student's counselor and approval by the High School administration. The
16 transcript may note a course that has been repeated in some manner, i.e., an asterisk, and include
17 a statement explaining the grade-point average calculation method.

18 19 Class Rank (Grade-point Average)

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21 Class Rank is compiled from semester grades. Courses not eligible for GPA are designated with
22 an asterisk on the report card.

23 24 Honor Roll

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26 A student must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 to be placed on the regular honor
27 roll. Specific information regarding honors at graduation is included in the student handbook.

28 29 Early Graduation

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31 In accordance with provisions of § 20-9-313, MCA, the ANB of a school may be increased when
32 a high school district provides early graduation for a student who completes graduation
33 requirements in less than eight semesters or the equivalent amount of secondary school
34 enrollment. The increase must be established by the Trustees as though the student had attended
35 to the end of the school fiscal year and must be approved, disapproved, or adjusted by the
36 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

37
38 Any student seeking to graduate early must submit an application to the principal at least two (2)
39 semesters prior to the proposed graduation date. Applications must be in writing and co-signed
40 by parents or legal guardians if the student is a minor.

41 42 Post-Graduated

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44 The Board may admit an individual who has graduated from high school but is not yet 19 years
45 of age even though no special circumstances exist for waiver of the age requirements outlined in
46 Policy 3310. The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to notify parents and students

of this opportunity to enroll after earning a diploma or purposes post-secondary or career preparations. Any student enrolled under this provision shall be included in the District's ANB calculation.

Waiver of Requirement

The Board grants the Superintendent or designee the authority to waive specific course requirements based on individual student needs and performance levels. Waiver requests shall also be considered with respect to age, maturity, interest, and aspirations of the students and shall be in consultation with the parents or guardians. In addition, the Superintendent or designee can determine that a student may be given credit for a course satisfactorily completed in a period of time shorter or longer than normally required and, provided that the course meets the District's curriculum and assessment requirements, which are aligned with the content standards stated in the education program.

Educational Disruption

If a student who has experienced an educational disruption meets the minimum high school credit requirement for graduation as established by administrative rules of the Board or Public Education but will not meet a higher credit requirement established by the Board of Trustees, the District shall award the student a comprehensive diploma.

For the purpose 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 educational disruption by the District.

Cross References:

Policy 1005FE	Proficiency Based Learning
Policy 1610	Goals and Objectives
Policy 2050	Student Instruction
Policy 2158	Family Engagement and Educational Involvement
Policy 2168	Distance, Online, and Technology-Delivered Learning
Policy 2333	Participation in Commencement Exercises
Policy 2413	Credit Transfer-Assessment for Placement from Non-Accredited and Non-Public Schools
Policy 2600	Work Experience/Internship Program
Policy 2600P	Work Experience/Internship Program – Insurance
Policy 2600F	GFPS Work Experience/Internship Affiliation Agreement
Policy 3124	Military Compact Wavier
Policy 3125	Homeless Students
Policy 3145	Foreign Exchange Students
Policy 3145R	Foreign Exchange Students
Policy 3150	Part-Time Attendance
Policy 3150R	Part-Time Attendance
Policy 3310	Student Discipline

Legal References:

§ 10-1-1402, MCA	Legislative Intent
§ 20-1-101, MCA	Definitions
§ 20-1-102, MCA	Legislative Goals for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
§ 20-3-322, MCA	Meetings and Quorum
§ 20-5-201, MCA	Duties and Sanctions
§ 20-7-1330, MCA	Graduation Requirements for Youth Who Experience Disruption in Education
§ 20-9-313, MCA	Circumstances Under Which Regular Average Number Belonging May Be Increased
10.55.904, ARM	Basic Education Program Offerings: High School
10.55.905, ARM	Graduation Requirements
10.55.906, ARM	High School Credit

Policy History:

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