

NOTE: State law requires each local Board of Education to establish high school graduation requirements that "meet or exceed any minimum standards or core competencies or skills identified in the state's guidelines for high school graduation requirements..." C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1) (kk)(II). These requirements apply to students enrolling in the ninth grade in the 2017-18 school year (i.e., the class of 2021). This sample contains the content/language that CASB believes best meets the intent of the law. However, the Board should consult with its own legal counsel to determine appropriate language that meets local circumstances and needs.

NOTE: In July 2020, the State Board of Education voted to provide flexibility for Graduation Guidance in the 2020-21 school year. Local education providers had the option to decide if they wanted to implement these graduation requirements for student graduating in 2021 or delay full implementation of the Graduation Guidelines to go into effect for students graduating in the 2021-22 school year and beyond.

As of fall 2021, all districts should have fully implemented the Graduation Guidelines. Full implementation includes: 5th, 6th, and 7th-year seniors from Anticipated Year of Graduation (AYG) 2021 and all students who have an AYG of 2022 or beyond, including 3-year graduates.

However, 6th year (AYG 2020) and 7th year (AYG 2019) seniors do not need to meet Graduation Guidelines competencies.

The additions, [in brackets] reflect the applicable timelines if the Board decided to delay full implementation.

Graduation Requirements

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential and are prepared for postsecondary and career opportunities, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements for students entering the ninth grade in the 2018-19 school year and each ninth-grade class thereafter.

To receive a high school diploma from the district, students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards and measures required by this policy. Students with disabilities must be provided access to all graduation pathways provided by this policy and must have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma from the district.

College and career readiness

Note: State law requires local Boards to adopt graduation requirements that demonstrate English and Math readiness in accordance with the state graduation guidelines. C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1) (kk)(II).

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted state graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in English (Reading, Writing, and

Communicating) and Math (Mathematics). The Board has selected its own measures from these state graduation guidelines.

Students must complete at least one English measure and one Math measure and meet or exceed the measure’s corresponding cut score or criteria to demonstrate college and career readiness in English and Math. The Board’s approved measure and cut scores are outlined in this policy’s accompanying exhibit.

Exceptions to the Board’s required measures and cut scores/criteria

If a student has demonstrated college and career readiness by completing an assessment or other measure that is not included in this policy’s accompanying exhibit but is included in the state graduation guidelines, the principal or principal’s designee may determine that such assessment or other measure is acceptable and meets the district’s graduation requirements.

Courses required for graduation

NOTE: A local Board may choose to require students to complete specific courses as part of its graduation requirements and identify them here. Please note that that state law requires all students to satisfactorily complete a course on the civil government of the State of Colorado and the United States (civics). C.R.S. 22-1-104. State law also “encourages” districts to treat computer science and coding courses as a math or science course and count completion of a computer science or coding course toward the fulfillment of a math or science graduation requirement. C.R.S. 22-32-133.5 (3).

On or after July 1, 2023, local school districts must incorporate the academic standards on Holocaust and Genocide studies into an existing course that is currently a condition of high school graduation. C.R.S. 22-1-104.7 (2)(a).

Local Boards also should be mindful of any specific course requirements for college admission and other postsecondary and workforce opportunities. For information about the admission standards for postsecondary education in Colorado, visit the Colorado Department of Higher Education’s website. For information about postsecondary and workforce readiness, visit the Colorado Department of Education website.

Graduation Requirements – 25 credits	
Subject	Requirement
Language Arts (must include English I, II, III and/or English IV or Speech & Debate)	4.0 credits
Social Studies (World History, American Government and 2 electives)	4.0 credits

Science (must include: Physical Science or Earth Science and Biology)	3.0 credits
Mathematics (must include Algebra I)	4.0 credits
Physical Education (1 credit must include Health/PE Class) (1/4 credit can be earned for full participation in each school sponsored sports season)	2.0 credits
Computer Science Technology/Business (1/2 credit must be earned in Computer Applications)	1.0 credit
Arts (Arts can include Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Industrial Arts, Band or Music)	1.0 credit
Electives	6.0 credits
Total Credits for Graduation	25 credits

Units of credit required for graduation

A total of 25 credits earned during grades nine through twelve are required for graduation. A credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course which meets four days per week for a minimum of 40 minutes daily for at least 36 weeks or the equivalent. Successful completion means that the student obtained a passing grade for the course.

The following criteria shall entitle a student to a high school diploma:

- Achievement in content standards as demonstrated by mastery of the curriculum which may include, but is not limited to, daily classroom assignments, the Colorado Measures of Academic Success, the district assessment program, classroom assessments, and student participation in, and completion of, assigned projects.
- Completion of 25 credits in grades nine through twelve in the prescribed categories listed above.
- Completion of the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) which may include modified content standards.

Community service hours in order to graduate

Beginning with the 9th Grade class of 2024 and each ninth grade class thereafter, over the course of the student's high school career, it is an expectation that the student accumulates a minimum of 20 hours of community service hours. These hours will be documented on the student's final transcript.

Deer Trail 26J recognizes the importance of student's involved in providing community service. Students involved in community service reflects selflessness, citizenship,

character and virtue all of which are the foundational blocks for building strong individuals as well as a strong community. Community service oriented programs approved by the counselor or the administration may be used toward required volunteer hours and state required graduation measures.

The following is a list of Acceptable and Not Acceptable community service documentations:

Acceptable:	Not Acceptable:
Any service lasting a minimum of 2 hours total. (This can include service opportunities that take place over several different days for less than 2 hours at a time, it must add up to 2 hours to be accepted for processing)	More than 5 hours of service learning being performed for a school team, club, activity, or faculty member. (Any time over 5 hours in which community service is performed by school organizations or faculty member for an outside organization <i>may</i> count toward the 20 hours –such as NHS coordinating volunteers to help at the food bank).
Any service commencing after the successful completion of eighth grade.	Any service paid for or for credit for disciplinary or adjudicated purposes.
Recommended completion by end of third quarter of senior year, except by prior approval of the counselor or administration.	Any activity for family, friends, an employer or private business.
Any activity completed outside of regular school hours.	Non-approval or absence of approval by the parent or guardian.
All aspects of the service approved by parent or guardian.	Any activity completed during school hours except with prior approval of the counselor or administration.
Service learning hours which receive no academic credit.	Any activity that is rewarded by badge, such as Boy and Girl Scouts.
	Any activity that results in lettering at the school.

Any student who is lacking transportation and would like information about service opportunities at school or has any questions about graduation requirements should contact the counseling department.

Recognition will be given to students beyond 20 hours in increments of 10 additional hours for example:

- Minimum: 20 hours or 5 hours per year (9-10-11-12)
- 30 hours of service learning/volunteer credit hours
- 40 hours of service learning/volunteer credit hours
- 50 hours of service learning/volunteer credit hours

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

Students entering from outside the district must meet the district's course requirements. The principal or principal's designee must determine whether credit toward course requirements will be granted for courses taken outside the district.

In accordance with applicable state law, college courses completed pursuant to the student's participation in a "dropout recovery program" must count as credit toward completion of the district's credit requirements.

Early graduation

The Board of Education believes that most students benefit from four years of high school experience and are encouraged not to graduate early. However, in some cases, students are ready for postsecondary education or other opportunities prior to completing four years of high school. Therefore, the superintendent or designee may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirements in accordance with this policy and its accompanying exhibit.

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LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-104 (*teaching history, culture and civil government*)
C.R.S. 22-1-104.7 (2)(a) (requirement to incorporate Holocaust and Genocide studies standards into existing course required for graduation)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1) (kk) (*Board to establish graduation requirements that "meet or exceed" state graduation guidelines*)
C.R.S. 22-32-132 (*discretion to award diploma to honorably discharged veterans*)
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (*home-based education law*)
C.R.S. 22-35-101 et seq. (*Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act*)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
AEA, Standards Based Education
IHBG, Home Schooling
IHBK*, Preparation for Postsecondary and Workforce Success
IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment
IK, Academic Achievement
IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems

NOTE: A "pathways in technology early college high school," or p-tech school, may have different high school graduation requirements from those of the district. C.R.S. 22-35.3-103 (5).

NOTE: The district may grant a diploma endorsement in areas such as:

- 1) STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), in accordance with the statutory criteria in C.R.S. 22-7-1009.3 (2); and*
- 2) biliteracy, in accordance with the statutory criteria in C.R.S. 22-7-1009.5 (2) and (3).*

NOTE: The district may seek to participate in the workforce diploma pilot program, aimed at providing coursework to adults so that they may earn their high school diploma. C.R.S. 22-10.3-101 et seq.