

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.

Graduation Requirements (Beginning with the Class of 2021)

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 2017-18 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 shall be provided access to all graduation pathways provided by this policy and shall 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 and Math. 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 measures 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 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). 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.

Units of credit required for graduation

English	4 years (English 9, 10, 11 & Senior English)
Math	4 years (9,10,11,12) (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 required)
Science	3 years (incl. Earth/Physical Science, Biology, Junior year)
Social Sciences	3 years (Freshmen Seminar/Civics, Geography, World History, American History)
Science/ Social Sciences	1 year of <u>either</u> additional core
Health	1 year
Computer Literacy	1 year
Foreign Language	1 year (many colleges require 2)
Physical Education	1 year (1 season sport = .25 credit – up to 1 credit)
Senior Seminar/Government	1 year
Academic Electives	3 academic electives required. (Includes any elective classes within the core academic areas).
Electives	6 including the 3 academic electives
Total Credits	26

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 shall determine whether credit toward course requirements shall 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" shall count as credit toward completion of the district's credit requirements.

Early graduation

NOTE: The following paragraph illustrates how a district may express its goals for students who become eligible to graduate early from high school. It is optional and should be revised to meet local circumstances or omitted if not applicable.

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 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.

Adopted: 2-8-2017

Revised: 2-12-2020

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-104 (*teaching history, culture and civil government*)
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