

NOTE: Boards are required by law to adopt a policy that requires notification to the parents of eighth grade students of the district's available courses that satisfy the higher education admission guidelines of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and a policy regarding individual career and academic plans. This policy reflects these legal requirements. This sample policy is also intended to provide the Board with a starting place for discussion related to the instructional program. The instructional program is established at the discretion of each local Board.

Basic Instructional Program

The educational program shall provide formal studies to meet the general academic needs of all students to enable them to meet or exceed state and district content standards. To the extent possible, opportunities for individual students to develop specific talents and interests in more specialized fields shall also be provided.

An atmosphere shall prevail in which healthy growth is fostered, in which ability is recognized and excellence encouraged, and in which a productive life is held before students as a model to emulate.

The various instructional programs shall be developed with the view toward maintaining balanced, integrated and sequentially articulated curricula which will serve the educational needs of all students in the district.

Elementary program

At the elementary level, schools will provide yearly instruction and assessment in content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, history, economics, geography, civics, music, visual arts, and physical education. Schools will provide interventions to prepare students for middle level education. In addition, as part of building citizenship skills, the elementary schools will instruct students about, and expect students to adhere to, the student code of conduct.

Junior high or middle school program

At the middle level, schools will continue to provide instruction and assessment in content standards. This instruction shall include a minimum of two years of English language arts, two years of mathematics, two years of science, and two years of social studies, including instruction in civics, geography, history, and economics. Middle schools with grades six through eight will provide three years of instruction in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students will also

have the opportunity to expand their talents and interests through an exploratory/electives program that provides instruction in content standards. As determined by each middle school, this exploratory/electives program may include any combination of the following courses: visual arts, music, technical education, world languages, physical education, health, consumer and family studies, computer/keyboarding/business, and other appropriate middle level course offerings. Schools will provide interventions to prepare students for high school. In addition, the middle schools will instruct students about, and expect students to adhere to, the student code of conduct.

Senior high school program

The high school has been designed to serve the needs of students in grades nine through twelve. High school will balance core academic expectations for all students in the achievement of content standards while serving the diverse talents and interests of our students. It is the joint responsibility of staff, students, and parents/guardians to ensure that students meet the core academic expectations and develop those talents and interests over the four years of high school.

High school will provide students with the academic skills to pursue further education and to be a competent member of the workforce. In addition, students will be instructed about, and be expected to be, participating citizens. Students will adhere to the student code of conduct up to and including the day of graduation. Graduation shall be the culminating event for students after they have met the requirements for a high school diploma.

Preparation for postsecondary opportunities

Students are encouraged to plan for postsecondary opportunities so they will be adequately prepared upon graduation from high school. Each student who enrolls in the sixth grade, on the day of enrollment, will be encouraged to register with the state-provided, free online college planning and preparation resource, commonly referred to as “CollegInColorado.”

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) will provide information to the parents/guardians of eighth grade students about the admission requirements for institutions of higher education in Colorado. In addition, the district will make information available to these same parents/guardians about the courses the district offers that meet the CCHE admission requirements. This information will be made available to parents/guardians prior to the student’s enrollment in his or her ninth grade courses.

Beginning in ninth grade, district personnel shall assist students to develop and maintain individual career and academic plans. *[NOTE: State law requires the district to assist students with the development of individual career and academic plans beginning in ninth grade. The district may choose, however, to require development of ICAPs in any grade prior to ninth grade. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(nn).]* The student's career and academic plan will be designed to assist the student and the student's parent/guardian in exploring the postsecondary career and educational opportunities available to the student, aligning course work and curriculum, applying to postsecondary education institutions, securing financial aid and ultimately entering the workforce.

Adopted: December 17, 2005

Revised: March 2010, December 2010

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-104 (*teaching of history, culture and civil government*)
C.R.S. 22-1-108 through 22-1-110 (*instruction on the federal constitution and the effect of use of alcohol and controlled substances*)
C.R.S. 22-25-101 *et seq.* (*Colorado Comprehensive Health Education Act*)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(ff) (*notice of courses that satisfy higher education admission guidelines*)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(nn) (*career and academic planning for students beginning in ninth grade*)
C.R.S. 22-35-101 *et seq.* (*Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act*)
1 CCR 301-81 (*rules governing standards for individual career and academic plans*)

CROSS REFS.: IKF, Graduation Requirements
JIC, Student Conduct, and Subcodes

Dolores School District RE-4A, Dolores, Colorado