

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 Guidelines in the 2020-21 school year. Local education providers can decide if they would like to implement these graduation requirements for the class of 2021 or delay full implementation until the class of 2022. The additions [in brackets] are suggestions, should the Board decide to delay full implementation.

Graduation Requirements

(Beginning with the Class of 2021 [or 2022])

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 [or 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

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.

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.

Adopted: April 8, 2021

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. 22-35-101et 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