

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.

In July 2020, the State Board of Education voted to provide flexibility for Graduation Guidelines in the 2020-21 school year. Local education providers had the option to decide if they wanted to implement these graduation requirements for students 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 2020-2021 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.

Graduation Pathways

Pathways will be designed to provide students with the ability to choose the college or career path that is right for them. While there are many core requirements for all Dolores High School students, our graduation pathways provide students with the opportunity to focus on one of the following three paths: University Pathways, General Pathway, and the Career Pathway. Under this umbrella more specific pathways will be developed that will allow students to focus their elective courses on their areas of interest. The majority of courses taken within the pathway will be directly related to the study of that pathway, taking into consideration the individual needs of the student and their future plans. These courses will include on-campus, concurrent education, and online courses, in addition to other options as might be vetted by the Pathways Committee and found to be of merit and in alignment with Colorado Academic Standards.

College and career readiness

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 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.

Students on Specialized Learning Plans:

All requirements can be modified for students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP), which may include use of the CDE Extended Evidence Outcomes and use of the District Capstone as a demonstration of state minimum competencies. However, these modifications **MUST** be documented within the student's IEP or ALP, and must be reviewed on an annual basis.

Units of Credit and Courses required for graduation

There are three diploma options that Dolores High School graduates can achieve including the following: Honors Diploma, General Diploma, and the Career & Technical Diploma. Units of credit and course requirements for each option are outlined in this policy's accompanying exhibit. [IKF-E-2]

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).

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.

NOTE: The state's graduation guidelines do not require students to earn a specific number of credits prior to graduating. As a result, this section is optional. If the Board chooses to include credit requirements in its graduation policy, these credit requirements should be identified here.

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.

High School Course Completion Prior to High School

Students will not earn credit for high school courses taken prior to entering high school. However, students who complete a high school class with a "C" or better prior to their Freshman year will be given placement credit when they enter high school. For example, a student who successfully completes Algebra I as an 8th grader will begin taking high school math at the Geometry level as a Freshman.

Walking at Graduation without Completed Credit

Students who lack no more than one credit toward meeting the graduation requirements at Dolores High School may petition the Principal for permission to walk in graduation ceremonies. Permission must be sought in writing, prior to the April 1st of the year in which the student is seeking graduation. The written request for permission must be accompanied by a detailed description of an appropriate summer school, college or other course to be completed within one year from the date of the graduation ceremonies. However, such students shall receive a blank folder. A diploma shall be awarded only upon successful completion of the approved course.

Students who are lacking required coursework toward graduation at any point during high school (i.e., failing grades) will meet with the principal, academic guidance counselor, parents, and registrar in order to create a coursework recovery plan within the first two weeks of the next grading period. The student will be required to complete the recovery coursework prior to the beginning of the next school year.

Class rankings and grade point averages

Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class upon the basis of grade-point averages for the four-year program, including the last semester of their senior year. Students must attend Dolores High School for a minimum of 2 semesters in order to be eligible to be valedictorian or salutatorian.

For purposes of determining valedictorian and salutatorian, grades for regular classes will be given the following values: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1. Grades for concurrent enrollment college courses from any accredited college or university will be given the following values: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=1. Grades from Advanced Placement courses (approved by the College Board) will be given the following values: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=1. Grades for concurrent enrollment CTE courses will be given the following values: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1.

After a course has been passed, no future grade earned in the same course shall be used to determine class rank or grade point average. Certain courses may be taken more than one time (ex: yearbook/web design, PE, etc.) The student with the highest weighted GPA will be valedictorian. When more than one student has the same weighted GPA, all students with that GPA will be declared co-valedictorians. When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average. Coursework for transfer students will be weighted ONLY if they are concurrent enrollment classes that have resulted in transcribed college credit or completed AP course.

The student must submit an official college transcript in order to receive weighted credit. The student must submit a test score for the AP exam which accompanied the course in order to receive weighted credit.

Independent study

Independent study, internship experience and experienced-based programs approved in advance by the Principal may be taken for high school credit. Students must submit a request for approval that includes a summary of the educational objectives to be achieved and monitored by a faculty member.

The course load for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors shall be a minimum of 7 courses or 3.5 credits per semester. Seniors must be enrolled for a minimum of 6 courses per semester, but may request special permission to attend 5 courses per day, with an ungraded, pass/fail work release for one period.

Study Hall and Teacher Assistant courses will not count toward GPA or pathway completion. These will be pass/fail courses.

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: Prior to 1987

Revised: May 1987, December 1988, February 1990, February 1991, July 1994, June 1998, May 2002, March 2004, January 2005, December 2005, February 2008, July 2011, March 2015, June 2016, November 2017, April 202, March 2022

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