



Poudre School District

IKF-3 - GRADUATION, DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The 21st century graduation, diploma and certificate requirements specified in this policy shall apply to students who enter grade 9 for the first time in the 2011-2012 school year and thereafter.

The 21st century graduation requirements reflect:

- A standards-based education that incorporate Colorado state standards;
- Applied mastery of postsecondary and workforce-ready learning skills and content, as defined by Board of Education Policy DE 1.0 and Colorado state requirements; and
- 240 credits, of which 175 are earned in required areas and 65 are earned in elective areas.

All credits must be part of an approved program of study (see chart below) and must demonstrate competency of Real World Applications, Creative Applications, Critical Thinking, Decision Making, Advocacy, and Adaptation to ever-changing personal and global contexts skills as outlined in District Ends Policy 1.0. Learning Skills and Content as defined in District Ends Policy 1.0 will be embedded into the curricula of study courses identified above and will be reflected in the classroom grade and performance assessments. Each student will develop an approved program of study that reflects academic, workforce, and postsecondary readiness. Students in the Poudre School District will be allowed a “maximum course load dictated by the school schedule every school year.”

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS OF STUDY AND CAREER PLANNING

Multiple pathways of study will provide a career focus area, or areas, allowing movement among paths. Students will develop a student academic plan, which include a review of graduation requirements, career exploration, and specific student course selection.

CORE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Credit requirements in each discipline should be completed in an articulated program of study in an approved Career Pathway.

Discipline/Area	Credits	
Math	30	to include skills in algebra, geometry, data analysis, and statistics. (<i>Algebra II highly recommended.</i>)
Science	30	to include skills in physical, life and earth system sciences. (<i>Chemistry and/or physics highly recommended.</i>)
Language Arts	40	to include skills in oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, research and reasoning.
Social Studies	25	to include skills in geography, civics, history, economics. (<i>Must include United States History and United States Government by Colorado State Statute.</i>)
Humanities	5	to include the cross-curricular study of literature, history, philosophy and comparative religion, visual and performing arts, and cultures.
World Language or World Culture	10	to include skills in world languages and/or knowledge & understanding of world cultures. Two years of world language highly recommended.
Fine and Applied Arts	10	to include skill in developing original products, creating artifacts such as artworks or gourmet foods, performing, and problem solving using critical and creative thinking.
Wellness	15	to include skills in physical and personal wellness. (<i>Must include health by Colorado State Statute.</i>)
Financial Literacy	5	to include skills in personal financial literacy as required by Colorado State Statute.
	5	Economics to include skills in micro and/or macro economics
Electives	65	

- Each content discipline area will be asked to submit courses to meet state standards and proficiency, state law, board ends DE 1.0/1.1, & District policies prior to March 30, 2011.
- The student must pass a course-embedded performance measure or demonstrate proficiency in technology.

- Self and career awareness; career discovery/research, presentation, and shadow experience; a five year plan; self marketing; and workplace skills will be embedded into specified graduation courses or by taking a specific course.

Note: Students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program fulfill graduation requirements through the prescribed IB course of study that may not match certain courses above; however, standards will meet or exceed those outlined above.

GRADUATION COURSES TAUGHT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

To receive credit for an approved course taken prior to 9th grade a student must receive a passing grade in the course.

The Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools will identify the credit-bearing courses that may be offered in middle school for graduation credit. Teachers who teach these courses will have “highly qualified” credentials. The Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment may conduct a pilot study, offering a course at a small number of schools before implementing it system wide. Approved courses will be published annually in the District Course Catalog.

A credit-bearing course offered at any middle school must meet the following criteria:

- The teacher must be highly qualified as defined by No Child Left Behind requirements;
- The district approved curriculum must be taught; and the district-adopted summative assessment must be administered for that course; and
- Partial credit will not be awarded for completing one semester of a two-semester sequence in middle school.

Students/Parents have the option of declining high school graduation credit for approved courses taught at the middle school level. While the grades in the approved courses are automatically reported and counted toward high school graduation credit, students/parents may void this credit at any time from the first day of the student’s ninth grade year through the last day of the student’s ninth grade year. Once the credit is declined, the grade record removal is permanent and non-reversible.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

Students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program fulfill graduation requirements through the prescribed IB course of study and may earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma.

ENDORSEMENT CATEGORIES

CONTENT AREA ENDORSEMENTS

Poudre School District (PSD) Content Area or Academy Endorsements are encouraged under the criteria set forth by the State Board of Education scheduled to be determined by July 1, 2011. The Poudre School District will develop guidelines that are aligned with State Board of Education criteria that will result in approved post secondary multiple career pathways.

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT OF ACADEMIC MERIT

Special recognition will identify Academic Meritorious Service graduates at time of graduation. This endorsement is awarded with the PSD diploma to students who have earned the 240 credits and completed the following additional provisions:

- Maintain a 3.6 cumulative grade point average, or higher;
- Receive credit for the PSD Algebra 2 course or higher; and
- Earn at least 30 credits in an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Post Secondary (PS) course.

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT OF POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS

Special recognition will identify Meritorious Service graduates at the time of graduation. This endorsement is awarded with the PSD diploma to students who have earned the 240 credits and completed the following additional provision.

- Complete a certificated program from a community college and/or an associates degree.

CERTIFICATE CATEGORIES

CERTIFICATE OF CIVIC EDUCATION OR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Special recognition will identify Civic Education or Meritorious Service graduates at the time of graduation. This certificate is awarded with the PSD diploma to students who have earned the 240 credits and completed the following additional provisions.

- Graduating seniors who have completed 200 or more Civic Education Volunteer hours or Service Learning (SL) volunteer hours;

- Have participated in at least four extra curricular activities throughout high school; and
- Complete a Capstone Project.

HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This certificate will be awarded to students who cannot meet the Poudre School District requirements for a diploma but who meet one of the following criteria:

- agreement of the student's parents/guardians;
- the student has developed appropriate skills to enter the world of work, act responsibly as a citizen, and enjoy a fulfilling life, including but not limited to:
 - Gainful employment;
 - Work activity centers;
 - Sheltered workshops; or
 - Supported employment
- The student has been enrolled in a special education program for four years beyond Grade 8 or its age equivalent; and
- will have reached age 21 by the end of the school year.

Adopted by Board: April 13, 2010

Revised by Board: May 8, 2012

CROSS REFS:

IKC, Grade Point Averages/Class Ranking

IKFB, Graduation Exercises