



IKF-2017 – GRADUATION AND DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

The graduation, diploma and certificate requirements specified in this policy shall apply to students until Policy IKF-2025 – Graduation, Diploma and Certificate Requirements takes effect for students who enter the 9th grade for the first time in the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive a high school diploma from Poudre School District, students must meet or exceed the District's academic standards and measures required by this policy, which include:

- College and Career Readiness Measures in:
 - Reading, Writing, and Communicating; and
 - Mathematics; and
 - The PSD Core Credit Requirements.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS MEASURES

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted state graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in Reading, Writing, and Communicating, and Mathematics, along with qualifying cut scores and criteria. The District has selected its own measures from these state-adopted graduation guidelines. Students must meet or exceed the cut scores or criteria on one Reading, Writing, and Communicating measure and one Mathematics measure or complete a College or Career Readiness measure from the approved measures listed below.

List of Approved College and Career Readiness Measures:

Accuplacer assessment	SAT assessment
ACT assessment	Concurrent Enrollment Course
ACT WorkKeys assessment	District Capstone
Advanced Placement assessment	Industry Certificate

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Battery)	International Baccalaureate assessment
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The District will use the College and Career Readiness Measure cut scores and criteria approved by the Colorado State Board of Education along with locally approved measures that meets the state guidelines. Administrative guidelines for implementing this policy shall list the approved cut scores and criteria for assessments and courses that fulfill the College and Career Readiness Measures.

Students may select any combination of measures in fulfilling the College and Career Readiness requirement. The District shall provide, at no cost to students, access to the English and Mathematics SAT assessment during the students' 11th grade year. The costs for other selected measures, where applicable, shall be borne by the student. Fees may be waived in accordance with District Policy JQ – Student Fees, Fines and Charges, and the District's Board-Adopted Student Fee Schedule.

Students shall develop an Individual Career Academic Plan, which includes a review of graduation requirements, career exploration, and specific student course selection.

PSD CORE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Discipline/Area	Credits	
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Mathematics & Computer Science	30	To include skills in algebra and geometry. <i>(Note: Algebra II is recommended for four-year college admission.)</i>
Science	30	To include skills in physical, life and earth system sciences. <i>(Note: Chemistry and/or physics are 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>(Note: Must include United States History and United States Government.)</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. <i>(Note: Two years of world language is recommended.)</i>
Fine and Applied Arts	10	To include skills 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.
Financial Literacy	5	To include skills in personal financial literacy.
Economics	5	To include skills in micro and/or macro economics.
Electives	65	
Total	240	

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. Approved courses are published in the administrative guidelines for implementing this policy.

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

- The District-approved curriculum must be taught, or for students transferring into the District, equivalent credit-bearing courses from accredited institutions will be accepted; and
- Partial credit shall not be awarded for completing one semester of a two-semester sequence in middle school.

Parents have the option of declining high school graduation credit for their children in 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 9th grade year through the last day of the student's 9th grade year. Once the credit is declined, the grade record removal is permanent and non-reversible.

ELIGIBILITY FOR LEARNERS WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

Students with Disabilities

The District will provide all students with a disability access to all graduation pathways and the opportunity to earn a standard diploma, regardless of whether the student participates in an alternative state assessment. A student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may describe the student's planned course of study, the specially designed instruction, the accommodations and the modifications necessary to enable the student to demonstrate competency in graduation requirements and achieve post-secondary goals. For students accessing the District Capstone measure for demonstration of College Career Readiness, the IEP is the guiding document for a student's high school pathway.

Students on a 504 Plan and/or an IEP may access allowable accommodations on the various competency pathway demonstrations.

Multilingual Learners

A student is eligible for an alternative pathway to graduation for Multilingual learners if:

- The student is identified for the English Language Development (ELD) program;
- The student arrived in the United States in 8th grade or later; and
- The student was classified as Non-English proficient upon arrival.

Students identified as Multilingual Learners according to District criteria may follow an alternate pathway to graduation. ELD courses may contribute to fulfillment of English Language Arts, World Language, or other graduation requirements. Additionally, immigrant students with no formal prior transcript will have access to an equitable credit process to give them credit for prior learning and studies.

WAIVERS OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Schools may seek a waiver for graduation requirements for students in their senior year based on administrative guidelines and/or procedures established and maintained by the Assistant Superintendents' Office.

Students with Disabilities

The student's IEP team may seek a waiver for a given graduation requirement if it is determined to be in the best educational interest of the student or if required in order to provide the student with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

For students with disabilities, a waiver must be approved by the assistant superintendent or designee and the student's IEP team. All student waivers will be recorded in a student's permanent special education file.

ENDORSEMENT CATEGORIES

Poudre School District endorsements align with the Colorado Department of Education's endorsement categories and requirements.

Adopted by Board: January 24, 2017
Revised by Board: June 13, 2017
Revised by Board: March 26, 2019
Revised by Board: September 24, 2019
Revised by Board: April 9, 2024

CROSS REFERENCES:

IKC – Grade Point Averages/Class Ranking
IKFB – Graduation Exercises