



## **Graduation Requirements**

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements.

### **District academic standards**

To receive a high school diploma from the district, students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards.

Graduation from high school is a culminating event that results from the foundations built at the elementary and middle levels. Graduation is a collaborative effort among levels in a student's public school career. Each level of school and each staff member or parent/guardian who instructs or counsels a student shares responsibility for the ultimate ability of that student to demonstrate proficiency in the district's academic standards and to meet the expectations for graduation.

### **Units of credit needed**

A minimum total of 28 credits earned during grades nine through 12 are required for graduation. A credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course which meets (on a 4 day week) for at least 36 weeks, meeting state attendance guidelines or the equivalent. Successful completion means that the student obtained a passing grade for the course.

The following criteria shall entitle a student to a high school diploma:

- Achievement in the district's academic standards as demonstrated by mastery of the curriculum which may include, but is not limited to, daily classroom assignments, state and district assessments, classroom assessments, and student participation in, and completion of, assigned projects.
- Completion of a minimum of 28 credits in grades nine through 12 in the prescribed categories listed below.

### **Required credits/courses**

Cotopaxi High School offers three different graduation pathways, each providing specific credit/course requirements meeting the local and state requirements. Each will carry the same weight as a Diploma, but they will each recognize the various pathways student achieve success in high school. Refer to Policy IKF-2-E.

### **Clipper Requirements (advanced): Total 30 Credits**

- 29 Academic credits plus 1 community Service credit requirement
- Community Service Credit given for 60 documented hours \*\*sliding scale upon implementation

- Minimum of 2 or more High school credits in AP/Concurrent Enrollment courses are required to be completed.
- Must show competency within English and Math as demonstrated through
- Must complete this pathway to be in the running for Valedictorian/Salutatorian honors

**Adventure Galley Requirements:** *Total 28 Credits*

- 27.5 Academic credits plus .5 community Service credit requirement
- At minimum 13 academic core credits are required
- Community Service Credit given for 30 documented hours \*\*sliding scale upon implementation
- Must show competency within English and Math as demonstrated through

**Schooner Requirements:** *Total 28 Credits*

- 27.5 Academic credits plus .5 community Service credit requirement
- At minimum 11 academic core credits are required
- Community Service Credit given for 30 documented hours \*\*sliding scale upon implementation
- Must show competency within English and Math as demonstrated through

**\*Additional graduation requirement beginning with the Class of 2021**

Required Demonstration of Mastery for Graduation:

To be eligible to graduate, in addition to accruing the required type and number of credits, students must, by their final year of school, successfully demonstrate postsecondary readiness. This can be demonstrated by passing one of the state approved assessments for mastery with the requisite score.

Students may choose from the following approved assessments:

SAT

ACT

Advance Placement Test

Concurrent Enrollment

Capstone

ASVAB

Accuplacer

Industry Certificate

State Required Assessment

\*\*Refer to Policy IKF-2-E

**Credit from other institutions and home-based programs**

All students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements. The principal shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the district. Students who are currently enrolled in the district and wish to obtain credit from outside institutions, or through "online" programs, must have prior approval from the principal.

The district shall accept the transcripts from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and district academic standards, the district shall require submission of the student's work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, the district may administer testing to the student to verify the accuracy of the student's transcripts. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

#### **Credit from a dropout recovery program**

In accordance with applicable state law, college courses completed pursuant to the student's participation in a "dropout recovery program" shall count as credit toward completion of the district's graduation requirements. A student seeking to enroll in a dropout recovery program shall work with his or her high school principal or designee in selecting college courses.

#### **Class rankings and grade point averages**

Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class for each high school upon the basis of grade-point averages for the four-year program, excluding the last semester of the senior year.

Grades for regular classes will be given the following values: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1.

Grades for advanced placement classes will be given the following values: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2.

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.

The student with the highest-class rank will be valedictorian. When more than one student holds the numerical one rank, all students holding the rank 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. Students entering from home-based education programs must submit student work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward class ranking or grade point average is sought.

#### **Independent study**

Independent study, work 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.

### **Student course load**

The course load for freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors shall be a minimum of 7 credits per school year. Students who wish to take less credits in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the principal.

### **Years of attendance**

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 need the challenge provided by postsecondary education or other opportunities at an earlier age. Therefore, the principal may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirements.

(Adoption date: August 2017)

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. 22-35-101 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