

	ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	NEPN Code: IKF-R
	POLICIES AND REGULATIONS	

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Aberdeen School District High School Diploma Requirements

A student's Personal Learning Plan must document a minimum of 25 credits which includes a plan based on a student's skills and interests that identifies the specific coursework a student needs to reach their academic and career goals.

Subject	Within Units Required, Must Include	Total Units Required
English	1.0 unit Writing 0.5 unit Speech or Debate 1.0 unit Literature (including 0.5 unit American Literature) 1.5 units other Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	1.0 unit Algebra I 2.0 units other Mathematics	3.0
Science	1.0 unit Biology 2.0 units other lab sciences	3.0
Social Studies	1.0 unit U.S. History 0.5 unit U.S. Government 1.5 units other Social Studies	3.0
Fine Arts		1.0
Physical Education		1.0
Health/Health Integration		1.0
Personal Finance or Economics		0.5
Approved CTE -OR- World Language -OR- Capstone Experience		1.0
Electives		7.5
TOTAL		25

*A state-approved advanced computer science course (with a list of approved courses provided) may be substituted for one unit of science (not including Biology)
Students may earn advanced endorsements with their high school diploma. See Advanced Endorsements section for specific endorsements.

**Upon anticipated completion of four (4) years participation in either a school sponsored athletic activity, Marching Band, or Show Choir, if academic scheduling conflicts are evident, students may petition Central High School Administration for a .5 credit waiver of Physical Education as required for graduation.

Additional requirements for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship are noted in the Central High School Gold Book.

Advanced Endorsements

Within the coursework outlined, a student may earn one (or more) of three advanced endorsements. Advanced endorsements outline specific coursework completed within the general high school diploma requirements to denote particular emphases. (Substitutions noted above with an * do not apply to Advanced and Advanced Honors endorsement requirements.)

- **Advanced Endorsement:** Indicates a student has pursued coursework consistent with entrance requirements for postsecondary education at a university.
- **Advanced Career Endorsement:** Indicates a student has career experience in a concentrated area, based on academic and/or workplace experience and a related credential
- **Advanced Honors Endorsement:** Indicates a student has pursued advanced, rigorous, academic coursework consistent with SDCL 13-55-31.1 (High school course requirements for opportunity scholarship eligibility).

Advanced Endorsement Requirements: Indicates a student has pursued coursework consistent with entrance requirements for postsecondary education at a university

Subject	Within Units Required, Must Include	Total Units Required
English	1.0 unit Writing 0.5 unit Speech or Debate 1.0 unit Literature (including 0.5 unit American Literature) 1.5 units other Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	1.0 unit Algebra I 1.0 unit Geometry 1.0 unit Algebra II	3.0
Science	1.0 unit Biology 2.0 units other lab sciences	3.0
Social Studies	1.0 unit U.S. History 0.5 unit U.S. Government 1.5 units other Social Studies	3.0
Fine Arts		1.0
Physical Education		1.0
Health/Health Integration		1.0
Personal Finance or Economics		0.5
Approved CTE -OR- World Language -OR- Capstone Experience		1.0
Electives		7.5
TOTAL		25

Advanced Career Endorsement Requirements: Indicates a student has career experience in a concentrated area, based on academic and/or workplace experience and a related credential

Subject	Within Units Required, Must Include	Total Units Required
English	1.0 unit Writing 0.5 unit Speech or Debate 1.0 unit Literature (including 0.5 unit American Literature) 1.5 units other Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	1.0 unit Algebra I 2.0 units other Mathematics	3.0
Science	1.0 unit Biology 2.0 units other lab sciences	3.0
Social Studies	1.0 unit U.S. History 0.5 unit U.S. Government 1.5 units other Social Studies	3.0
Fine Arts		1.0
Physical Education		1.0
Health/Health Integration		1.0
Personal Finance or Economics		0.5
	2.0 units of either of the following or a combination of the two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved CTE units from the same career cluster <u>OR</u> Capstone Experience units <u>AND</u> Attainment of an industry recognized credential OR National Career Readiness Certificate of Silver or higher	2.0
Electives		6.5
TOTAL		25

Advanced Honors Endorsement Requirements: Indicates a student has pursued advanced, rigorous, academic coursework consistent with SDCL 13-55-31.1 (High school course requirements for opportunity scholarship eligibility). All high school coursework completed with a “C” or higher.

Subject	Within Units Required, Must Include	Total Units Required
English	1.5 units Writing 0.5 unit Speech or Debate 1.5 unit Literature (including 0.5 unit American Literature) 0.5 units other Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	1.0 unit Algebra I 1.0 unit Geometry 1.0 unit Algebra II 1.0 unit Advanced Mathematics (see https://sdos.sdbor.edu/require/require.html for more information)	4.0
Science	1.0 unit Biology 1.0 unit Any Physical Science 1.0 unit Chemistry or Physics 1.0 unit other Science	4.0
Social Studies	1.0 unit U.S. History 0.5 unit U.S. Government 0.5 unit Geography 0.5 unit World History 0.5 unit other Social Studies	3.0
Fine Arts		1.0
Physical Education		1.0
Health/Health Integration		1.0
Personal Finance or Economics		0.5
Approved CTE -OR- World Language	2.0 units of either of the following or a combination of the two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved CTE courses OR Modern or Classical Language (including American Sign Language); units must be in the same language 	2.0
Electives		4.5
TOTAL		25

B. CREDIT BY EXAM (COURSE EQUIVALENCY EXAM)

For courses approved by the Department of Education through a waiver process initiated by the District, the District will offer credit by exam for students enrolled in the District in grades 9-12.

Course exams will be developed and administered by District certified staff. All exams will be comprehensive in nature and reflect the South Dakota State Standards. Students must pass the exam with at least 85% proficiency on the first attempt for credit to be issued. Credit will be included on the student transcript upon achieving 85% proficiency or above and will be calculated as a part of a student's cumulative grade point average. A student will have a letter grade assigned for the course which reflects the results of the equivalency exam. Failed attempts on the course equivalency exam will not be included on a student's transcript and will not be calculated as a part of a student's cumulative grade point average.

Total credits earned through credit by exam will be limited to 4 credits. All credits received by exam will apply toward the 25 credit requirement.

C. COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT PRIOR TO NINTH GRADE

Students who take high school courses prior to grade nine, will receive high school credit within the subject area if the course is taught by a teacher with applicable certification, it meets the seat time requirements, and the student passes the course with a final grade of at least a C- prior to the start of the following school year. Upon successfully obtaining a final grade of at least C-, the letter grade will be posted on the student's transcript and the course will be calculated as part of the student's cumulative grade point average. A waiver for credit prior to grade nine must be approved by the State and the District.

D. GRADUATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The School Board is committed to all students taking courses that challenge their individual skills. It also recognizes the District's responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education to each student with disabilities based on their individual needs. The Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams will develop a course of study for each student with an IEP to be reviewed a minimum of annually. The course of study will outline the student's coursework toward the South Dakota High School Diploma Requirements and inform decisions based on the individual student's needs including measurable postsecondary goals. The IEP team will determine, document, and ensure parent is informed at least one year in advance that the student will graduate with a regular diploma or continue eligibility for special education services until the earlier of when the student completes his/her secondary school program or the 30th of June following the student's 21st birthday. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) does not guarantee that every student with a disability will receive a regular high school diploma.

E. GRADUATION CEREMONY

The School District is committed to acknowledging academic achievement and to awarding a high school diploma or certificate of completion to those students who have completed the required coursework for high school graduation.

High school students with twenty-three credits at the end of the third term of their senior year may participate in the graduation ceremony.

Extenuating circumstances may be appealed to the Superintendent.

Other Related Policies:

JGA Enrollment of Students from Non-Accredited Schools

IJNDB/IJNDB-R Distance Education

IHCDA/IHCDA-R/IHCDA-E Concurrent Enrollment

IKFA/IKFA-R & IKFA-E Early Graduation Requirements/Regulations

Legal References:

SDCL13-27-3 Child excused if provided alternative instruction

SDCL 13-28-1.1 Enrolled student defined

SDCL13-33-19 Recommended high school program and basic high school program

ARSD 24:05:27:12 Graduation requirements.

ARSD 24:43:08:12 Adding waived course credits to high school transcripts

ARSD 24:43:11:01 Number of required credits for graduation from high school

ARSD 24:43:11:02 Specific units of credit required for high school graduation

ARSD 24:43:11:07 Required high school unit offerings

ARSD 24:43:11:09 Course equivalency exam

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REVISED: June 24, 2019

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