

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for graduation from the Byers public schools will be specified in the high school handbook and shall reflect the requirements of the statutes, any applicable requirements relative to accreditation and pupil and local needs. All such policies will be set upon recommendation of the principal and superintendent and must be approved by the Byers School District 32-J Board of Education. Requirements should be made known and available to the greatest extent possible to students and parents in the district.

A senior shall be eligible for early graduation after 24 units of credit have been earned, which fourteen and one half are required. Beginning with the freshman class of 2020-21, a senior shall be eligible for early graduation after 25 units of credit have been earned. Early release seniors may attend all school functions but will not be eligible for CHSAA activities. Requests for early graduation must be approved by the superintendent of schools in consultation with the counselor and high school principal. Notification for approval of early graduation will be given to the student and his/her parents in writing by the superintendent of schools.

### District academic standards

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

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.

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.

### Valedictorian/Salutatorian

In order to be eligible for the honors of Valedictorian or Salutatorian of a graduating class, a student must be enrolled at Byers High School at the beginning of the second semester of their junior year and remain enrolled at Byers High School for the remainder of their high school experience.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian honors are awarded upon completion of the first seven continuous semesters of a student's high school experience, effective the 2023-2024 school year.

Adopted March 17, 2005

Revised May 11, 2017

Revised August 5, 2020

Revised January 20, 2022

Revised December 16, 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

*NOTE: A "pathways in technology early college high school," or p-tech school, may have different high school graduation requirements from those of the district. C.R.S. 22-35.3-103 (5).*

*NOTE: The district may grant a diploma endorsement in areas such as:*

- 1) STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), in accordance with the statutory criteria in C.R.S. 22-7-1009.3 (2); and*
- 2) biliteracy, in accordance with the statutory criteria in C.R.S. 22-7-1009.5 (2) and (3).*

*NOTE: The district may seek to participate in the workforce diploma pilot program, aimed at providing coursework to adults so that they may earn their high school diploma. C.R.S. 22-10.3-101 et seq.*