

Graduation Requirements

(Beginning with the Class of 2021)

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential and are prepared for postsecondary and career opportunities, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements for students entering the ninth grade in the 2017-18 school year and each ninth grade class thereafter.

State and District Content Standards

All students must meet or exceed state and district academic content standards prior to becoming eligible to graduate or complete the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), which may include modified academic content 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 content standards and to meet the expectations for graduation.

Units of credit needed

Students must earn a minimum of 28 units of credit and be enrolled as a full time student to be considered eligible to receive a diploma from Sierra Grande School District. Credits must meet the following minimum requirements:

A unit of credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course in which the student is enrolled. Successful completion means that the student obtained a passing grade for the course. Credit for concurrent or dual enrollment shall be awarded in accordance with policy [IHCDA](#) and [IHCDA-R](#).

Graduation Requirements for Class of 2017 through 2020

Credit requirements by subject area shall be as follows:

Communication Arts	4	credits
Science	4	credits
Mathematics	4	credits
Social Studies	4	credits
Technology	1	credit
PE (may complete with 2 sport seasons)	1	credit
Foreign Languages	2	credits
Fine/Practical Arts	4	credits
Electives	2	credits
Total		26 Credits

Graduation Requirements Commencing with the Class of 2021

It is the intent of the Sierra Grande School District Board of Education that all students in grades 9-12 will be afforded a pathway for graduation and that the criteria established under this policy will be used to accredit and assign certification of the completed course work to obtain a diploma.

Beginning School Year 2017 students in grade nine are subject to pathways for graduation that include the pursuit of either a collegiate diploma or a comprehensive diploma signifying their achievement in course work attained while a student at Sierra Grande High School. While all students are eligible to participate in course work that aligns with the completion and attainment of a collegiate diploma, the Board of education has approved units of credit and criteria established for the attainment of a comprehensive diploma for students choosing to complete the obligated course requirements there-in.

College and career readiness

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted state graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in English and Math. The Board has selected its own measures from the state graduation guidelines to prove college and career readiness. The following assessments in the areas of English and Math have been approved and adopted by the Board of Education for the use of determining eligibility to receive a Collegiate Diploma.

English

Students must complete at least one of the following measures and meet or exceed the measure's corresponding cut score or criteria to demonstrate college and career readiness in English.

Qualifying Minimum Scores for College and Career Readiness:

Measure	Cut Score/Criteria
Accuplacer	Score of at least 62 on Reading Comprehension
ACT Assessment	Score of at least 18 on English
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)	Score in at least the 31st percentile
SAT Assessment	Score of at least 430 on English
Advanced Placement (AP) course that demonstrates English readiness	Earn a B or above average in 100 level district approved college English course

Math

Students must complete at least one of the following measures and meet the measure's corresponding cut score or criteria to demonstrate college and career readiness in Math.

Accuplacer assessment	Score of at least 61 on Elementary Algebra.
ACT assessment	Score of at least 19 on Math.
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)	Score in at least 31 st percentile
SAT assessment	Score of at least 460 on Math
Advanced Placement (AP) course that demonstrates Mathematics readiness	Earn a B or above average in 100 level district approved college Math course

School District Diplomas Awarded and Criteria

The Board of Education has approved the following courses and credit criteria for certification of a Collegiate Diploma and Comprehensive Diploma. The superintendent or board appointed designee will ensure that board policies concerning district diplomas are adopted and followed. Subject area and class changes will be approved and adopted by the Board of Education as a change to district policy.

Collegiate Diploma

A total of 28 credits are required to earn College and Career Ready Status on the district approved diploma as well as the completion of one of the aforementioned state accepted assessments in English and Math. A total of 26 credits are required to earn Comprehensive Ready Status on the district approved diplomas. The following courses and assigned credits for completion in each subject area have been approved by the Board of Education. The superintendent or board appointed designee will certify the completion of courses and make recommendations to the Board of Education.

College Ready Status

*Required Courses

Communication Arts/English: 4 credits
 Ancient Literature
 American Literature
 Speech & Communication*
 Writing & Composition*
 Research & Reasoning

Science: 4 credits
 Physical Science
 Biology*
 Chemistry
 Anatomy / Physiology
 Physics

Comprehensive Ready Status

*Required Courses

Communication Arts/English: 4 credits
 Ancient Literature
 American Literature
 Speech & Composition
 Writing & Composition*
 Research & Reasoning

Science: 4 credits
 Physical Science
 Biology
 Chemistry
 Anatomy / Physiology
 Physics

1st Reading: 10/9/19
2nd Reading: 10/23/19

FILE: IKF-2

Mathematics: 4 credits
Algebra I*
Geometry*
Algebra II / Trigonometry*
Pre-Calculus*
Calculus

Mathematics: 4 credits
Algebra I*
Geometry*
Algebra II / Trigonometry
Business Math

Social Studies: 4 credits
World Civilization*
Geography (1/2 credit)*
Economics (1/2 credit)*
American History*
American Government*

Social Studies: 4 credits
World Civilization*
Geography (1/2 credit)*
Economics (1/2 credit)*
American History*
American Government*

Foreign Language: 2 credits
Spanish I*
Spanish II*

Foreign Language: 2 credits
Spanish I*
Spanish II*

Health/Physical Education: 1 credit
Physical Education
Participation in 2 HS Sports (satisfies)

Health/Physical Education: 1 credit
Physical Education
Participation in 2 HS Sports (satisfies)

Electives: 9 credits

Electives: 7 credits

Capstone Project: P/F
Two (2) Year Completion

Capstone Project: P/F
Four (4) Year Completion

ICAP (Individual Career and Achievement Plan): P/F
Completion

ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan): P/F
Completion

Community Service: (~~400~~ 110 hrs. or ~~25~~ 27.5 hrs. annually):
Completion

Community Service: (~~400~~ 110 hrs. or 27.5 annually)
Completion

College Ready Total Credits 28 Credits

Career Ready Total Credits 26 Credits

District Capstone Project

Beginning School Year 2017-2018, the District Board of Education will implement the use of the Capstone Project as a means to certify graduation requirements for all future students entering high school. Students must complete the minimal Capstone requirements outlined within the Graduation Requirements Regulation IKF-R and complete credit requirements of one of the Board approved diplomas for graduation. The Board approved Capstone Project shall consist of student project based experiences that demonstrate academic and intellectual learning. All students seeking graduation and a diploma must complete the scope of the Capstone Project assigned under diploma qualifications and board approved regulations. The Capstone Project will include a student portfolio as a record of completion. The superintendent or board approved designee will ensure that board approved regulations concerning Capstone Projects are followed.

College Courses

The Board of Education encourages students to participate in advanced placement classes as a means to further their success in higher education. Advanced placement classes are considered to be classes of 100 level or higher. Students completing an advanced placement class with a grade sufficient under policy will receive a weighted score for that class upon their student transcript. The Board of Education has approved a weight of 0.5 to be added to the student transcript and GPA average as reflected under policy exhibit IKA-E. Weighted grades will be added and used in determining the student's total GPA average and academic honors awarded.

Academic Honors

Beginning the 2020-2021 School Year Academic Honors bestowed on students will be reflective of policies and regulations outlined in policy IKD Academic Honors and regulation IKD-R.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The Board of Education must certify the selection of valedictorian and salutatorian. All approved policies and regulations determining the selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian are listed in district policy JMA. All students eligible to receive a collegiate diploma are eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian status in compliance with district policy JMA. The selection of a valedictorian and salutatorian will no longer take place after the 2020 Graduating Class.

Exceptions to the Board's required measures and cut scores/criteria

If a student has demonstrated college and career readiness by completing an assessment or other measure that is not included in this policy but is included in the state graduation guidelines, the superintendent or board approved designee may determine that such assessment or other measure is acceptable and meets the district's graduation requirements for a collegiate and comprehensive diploma.

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

Students entering from outside the district must meet the district's course requirements. The secondary principal shall determine whether credit toward course requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the district.

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 credit requirements.

Early graduation

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 are ready for postsecondary education or other opportunities at an earlier age. Therefore, the secondary principal may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirements in accordance with this policy.

1st Reading: 10/9/19
2nd Reading: 10/23/19

FILE: IKF-2

Adopted: 1-5-83

Amended: 11-9-88, 11-12-91, 2-11-93, 7-12-96, 2-8-17, 11-6-19

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
IKA-E, Weighted Courses
JMA, Valedictorian and Salutatorian