

Graduation requirements-early graduation

The Board desires that its standards for graduation meets or exceeds the minimum standards of the South Dakota Department of Education as well as those of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Under the Administrative rules of South Dakota all students in grades 9 through 12 must have a Personal Learning Plan. The Personal Learning Plan must document a minimum of 22 units of credit for graduation.

REQUIRED COURSES

The following courses, according to the South Dakota Administrative Rules, will be required for graduation beginning with the students entering 9th grade in the 2017-2018 school year:

1. Language Arts (4 units or more)
 - a. Writing: 1 unit
 - b. Speech or Debate: .5 unit
 - c. Literature: 1 unit (must include .5 unit American Literature)
 - d. Language Arts electives: 1.5 units
2. Mathematics (3 units)
 - a. Algebra I: 1 unit
 - b. Mathematics electives: 2 units
3. Science (3 units)
 - a. Biology: 1 unit
 - b. Science electives: 2 units
4. Social Studies (3 units)
 - a. U.S. History: 1 unit
 - b. U.S. Government: .5 unit
 - c. Social Studies electives: 1.5 units
5. Fine Arts (1 units)
6. Personal Finance or Economics (.5 units)
7. Physical Education (.5 units)
8. Health or Health Integration (.5 units)
9. Any Combination of the following: (1 unit)
 - a. Approved CTE
 - b. Capstone Experience

c. World Language

10. Electives (5.5 units)

Academic core content credit may be earned by completing an approved career and technical education course. Approval to offer credit must be obtained through an application process with the Department of Education. The application must include course syllabus; standards-based curriculum; teacher certification; and assessment of standards by methods including end-of-course exams, authentic assessment, project-based learning, or rubrics.

Students who are unable to meet the graduation requirements will not be permitted to participate in graduation exercises.

EARLY GRADUATION EARLY GRADUATION: A student must complete seven (7) semesters and complete all Required Courses to qualify for early graduation. Students who will meet the graduation requirements by the end of their seventh completed semester must submit a letter of application to the High School Principal not later than the end of the second semester of the junior year. This letter must be signed by the student's parents and have the approval of the Superintendent and at least one classroom teacher. After approval by the Superintendent and one classroom teacher, the letter of application must then be approved by the Board. The application letter will be brought for a vote of approval at the next regular Board meeting.

Adopted 12/16/2020