

Graduation Requirements

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.

Graduation requirements are established to ensure high academic standards for the Eagle County Schools. Any student who meets these requirements shall be awarded a diploma. Graduation requirements are based on the needs of the students, the expectations of the School District, and guidelines of the Colorado Department of Education. They are designed for all students and should meet the needs of both the college and non-college bound students.

It is the intention of the Board of Education that these requirements will constitute the minimum number of courses that will lead to graduation from the Eagle County School District. It is expected that the large majority of students will pursue a course of study that exceeds this minimum. Students will maintain a full academic schedule for each of the eight semesters with at least four courses per semester, with the exception of the plans outlined in the following paragraph.

Units of credit needed

A total of 27 credits earned during grades nine through twelve are required for graduation. A credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course which meets five days a week for a minimum of 40 minutes daily for at least 36 weeks 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 content standards as demonstrated by mastery of the curriculum which may include, but is not limited to, daily classroom assignments, Colorado Student Assessment Program, the district assessment program, classroom assessments, and student participation in, and completion of, assigned topics.
- Completion of 27 credits (26 credits for class of 2007) in grades nine through twelve in prescribed categories listed below.
- Completion of the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) which may include modified content standards.

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

Alternate education/Independent Study plans to meet individual academic needs may be approved by the principal in consultation with appropriate school and District Office staff. Prior to the start of a class a student may, with the written agreement of a parent/guardian, request the opportunity to test out of the class. If the request is approved by the principal, the student will be

given the class' comprehensive final exam and if the student earns a 90% or higher, the student's transcript will reflect a grade of "A" recorded for the class. The student is then eligible for placement in a higher level class. Some performance classes (e.g., technology, art, music, PE, etc.) may not be appropriate for this test-out opportunity.

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 "on-line" 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.

Non-immigrant Foreign Students

Non-immigrant foreign student who enroll through a one-year exchange program are not eligible to graduate from a district high school.

Student course load

The course load for freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors shall be a minimum of 6 credits per school year. Students who wish to take less credits in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the principal.

Graduation requirements of the Eagle County School District are based on the units of credit earned in grades 9-12. A unit of credit (.5) is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a full trimester course. Trimester courses shall be counted as .5 credit. Quarter courses shall be counted as .25 credit.

Beginning with the class of 2004-05 these required courses, designed to meet the Colorado Model Content Standards will include:

SUBJECT.....	REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION
English	4.0 units
Social Studies (1.0 unit Civics – required by law)	3.0 units
Mathematics	3.0 units
Physical Education/Health (.5 unit)	2.0 units
Technology/Computer Applications	1.0 units
Science	3.0 units
Electives	11.0 units
TOTAL	27.0 units

Upon completion of these graduation requirements, the student may participate in the year-end graduation ceremony of the school from which the final credits were gained. A student is not eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony from the school from which he/she transferred. Students must be in attendance during the current school year and receive credit in the current year to graduate in that year. Students in approved exchange programs or Fasttrack Programs approved by the District will be able to graduate with their class they were previously in which he/she was previously enrolled.

Years of Attendance

The District 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 post secondary 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 the district graduation and timeline requirements.

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (*home-based education law*)
C.R.S. 22-1-104 (*teaching history, culture and civil government*)
C.R.S. 22-32-132 (*discretion to award diploma to honorably discharged veterans*)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
AEA, Standards Based Education
IA, Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives
IHA, Basic Instructional Program
IHBG, Home Schooling
IHCDA, Postsecondary Options/Concurrent Enrollment
ILBA, District Program Assessments
ILBB, State Program Assessments
ILBC, Literacy and Reading Comprehension Assessments
JFABB, Admission of Non-Immigrant Foreign Students