GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In pursuit of Academy School District 20’s mission to educate every student and provide comprehensive, challenging curricular and extracurricular opportunities and equipping every student with the knowledge, skills, and character essential to being a responsible citizen of our community, our nation, and the world, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements. To receive a high school diploma from the district, students must meet or exceed the district’s academic standards and measures required by this policy or complete the requirements and goals listed on a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), which may include modified academic standards.

I. Coursework Requirements

All students who graduate from District 20 schools should have a firm foundation in the core areas of English, world languages, mathematics, science, and social science as well as a comprehensive background in arts, physical education, and other electives. To be prepared for post graduate careers or higher education, students should select courses which are related to their post-secondary plan and are academically demanding. Courses must align with Colorado Academic Standards and integrate 21st Century skills. The coursework outlined in this policy is the minimum required for earning a diploma; students should strive to challenge themselves by exceeding the requirements whenever possible in accordance with their post-graduation goals. School officials will work with students in developing their individual career and academic plans (ICAP) which include plans for high school courses. In collaboration with parents/guardians and students, counselors will review and update these plans annually, beginning in sixth grade when students shall be advised of available high school course pathways.

Coursework requirements for graduation are based on the number of units of credit earned in grades 9 through 12. A unit of credit is typically the credit received for a one semester course. A minimum of 50 units of credit shall be required for graduation from high school. The principal has the authority to waive graduation requirements. Appeals will be directed to the Superintendent or designee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Special Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Four of the six credits must be from laboratory science classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>All students must complete Algebra 1 and Geometry (either in middle school or in high school). All students must earn 6 math credits during grades 9-12.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Social Science requirements include two required credits of U.S. History and one credit of Civics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>High school level world language courses taken in middle school may apply to this requirement, but will not count toward the requirement of 50 total credits. When applying middle school world language credits to meet this requirement, 2 additional core elective credits must be earned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Core elective requirements include courses in English, world language, mathematics, science, and social science.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### II. Demonstration of Proficiency in English Language Arts and Math

For students graduating in the 2020-2021 school year, and for each graduating grade class thereafter, in order to be eligible for graduation, students must demonstrate proficiency in both math and English language arts (ELA). In addition to the coursework requirements outlined in Section I and accordance with requirements published by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), students will demonstrate proficiency in both math and ELA as indicated in Procedure IKF-R.

**Adopted:** July 16, 1981  
**Revised:** March 15, 1984  
June 5, 1997  
February 3, 2005  
October 25, 2006  
April 2, 2015  
January 19, 2017

**Cross References:** Mission Statement  
Ends 1.0 (Global Ends Statement)  
Ends 1.1, Knowledge and Skills  
EL–2.1, Treatment of Students  
BSR–3.3, Delegation to the Superintendent  
AE, School Accountability for Enhanced Student Performance  
AE R, Commitment to School Improvement Accountability for Student Academic Achievement  
IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment  
IKA, Assessments

**Legal References:** Colorado Constitution, Article IX, Section 15  
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. § 22-33-104.5 (home-based education law)  
C.R.S. § 22-35-101 et seq. (Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act)