



IKF-4 - GRADUATION, DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The graduation, diploma and certificate requirements specified in this policy shall apply to students who enter the 9th grade for the first time in the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive a high school diploma from Poudre School District, students must meet or exceed the District’s academic standards and measures required by this policy, which include College and Career Readiness Measures in English and in Mathematics, and the PSD Core Credit Requirements.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS MEASURES

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted state graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in English and Mathematics, along with qualifying cut scores and criteria. The District has selected its measures from these state-adopted graduation guidelines. Students must meet or exceed the cut scores or criteria on one English measure and one Mathematics measure from the approved measures listed below.

List of Approved College and Career Readiness Measures:

Accuplacer assessment	International Baccalaureate assessment
ACT assessment	SAT assessment
ACT WorkKeys assessment	Concurrent Enrollment Course
Advanced Placement assessment	District Capstone
ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Battery)	Industry Certificate

The District will use the College and Career Readiness Measure cut scores and criteria approved by the Colorado State Board of Education. Administrative guidelines for implementing this policy shall list the approved cut scores and criteria for assessments and courses that fulfill the English and Mathematics College and Career Readiness Measures.

Students may select any combination of measures in fulfilling the English and Mathematics College and Career Readiness requirement. The District shall provide, at no cost to students, access to the English and Mathematics SAT assessment during the students’ 11th grade year. The costs for other selected measures, where applicable,

shall be borne by the student. Fees may be waived in accordance with District Policy JQ and the District’s Board-Adopted Student Fee Schedule.

Students shall develop an Individual Career Academic Plan, which includes a review of graduation requirements, career exploration, and specific student course selection.

PSD CORE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Discipline/Area	Credits	
Math	30	To include skills in algebra, geometry, data analysis, and statistics. <i>(Algebra II highly recommended.)</i>
Science	30	To include skills in physical, life and earth system sciences. <i>(Chemistry and/or physics highly recommended.)</i>
Language Arts	40	To include skills in oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, research and reasoning.
Social Studies	25	To include skills in geography, civics, history, economics. <i>(Must include United States History and United States Government, per Colorado State Statute.)</i>
Humanities	5	To include the cross-curricular study of literature, history, philosophy and comparative religion, visual and performing arts, and cultures.
World Language or World Culture	10	To include skills in world languages and/or knowledge & understanding of world cultures. <i>(Two years of world language highly recommended.)</i>
Fine and Applied Arts	10	To include skills in developing original products, creating artifacts such as artworks or gourmet foods, performing, and problem solving using critical and creative thinking.
Wellness	15	To include skills in physical and personal wellness.
Financial Literacy	5	To include skills in personal financial literacy.
Economics	5	Economics to include skills in micro and/or macroeconomics.
Electives	65	
Total	240	

Note: Students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program fulfill graduation requirements through the prescribed IB course of study that may not match certain courses above; however, standards will meet or exceed those outlined above.

GRADUATION COURSES TAUGHT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

To receive credit for an approved course taken prior to 9th grade, a student must receive a passing grade in the course. Approved courses are published in the administrative guidelines for implementing this policy.

A credit-bearing course offered at any middle school must meet the following criteria:

- The District-approved curriculum must be taught, and the District-adopted summative assessment must be administered for that course (except that for students transferring into the District, equivalent credit-bearing courses from accredited institutions will be accepted); and
- Partial credit shall not be awarded for completing one semester of a two-semester sequence in middle school.

Parents have the option of declining high school graduation credit for their children in approved courses taught at the middle school level. While the grades in the approved courses are automatically reported and counted toward high school graduation credit, students/parents may void this credit at any time from the first day of the student's 9th grade year through the last day of the student's 9th grade year. Once the credit is declined, the grade record removal is permanent and non-reversible.

ENDORSEMENT CATEGORIES

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT OF ACADEMIC MERIT

Special recognition shall identify Academic Meritorious Service graduates at the time of their graduation. This endorsement is awarded with the PSD diploma to students who have earned the 240 credits and satisfied the following additional provisions:

- Maintain a 3.6 cumulative grade point average, or higher;
- Receive credit for the PSD Algebra 2 course or higher; and
- Earn at least 30 credits in an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Post-Secondary (PS) course.

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT OF POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS

Special recognition shall identify Postsecondary Success Meritorious Service graduates at the time of graduation. This endorsement is awarded with the PSD diploma to

students who have earned the 240 credits and satisfied the following additional provision:

- Complete a certificated program from a community college and/or an associate's degree.

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT OF BILITERACY

Special recognition will identify graduates who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy at the time of graduation. This endorsement is awarded with the PSD diploma to students who have earned the 240 credits and satisfied the following additional provisions:

- Demonstrated the attainment of proficiency or higher in one or more world languages; and
- Demonstrated the attainment of proficiency or higher in English.

CERTIFICATE CATEGORIES

CERTIFICATE OF CIVIC EDUCATION OR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Special recognition shall identify Civic Education or Meritorious Service graduates at the time of graduation. This certificate is awarded with the PSD diploma to students who have earned the 240 credits and completed the following additional provisions:

- Graduating seniors who have completed 200 or more Civic Education Volunteer hours or Service Learning (SL) volunteer hours;
- Have participated in at least four extracurricular activities throughout high school; and
- Completed a Capstone Project.

HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

This certificate shall be awarded to students who have not satisfied the requirements for high school graduation but have remained enrolled and continued their education in the District until age 21.

Adopted by Board: January 24, 2017

Revised by Board: June 13, 2017

CROSS REFS:

IKC, Grade Point Averages/Class Ranking

IKFB, Graduation Exercises