

Graduation Requirement

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements.

District academic standards

All students must meet or exceed the district's academic 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 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 district's academic standards and to meet the expectations for graduation.

Units of credit needed

A total of 24 credits earned during grades nine through twelve shall be required for graduation as detailed in the regulation that accompanies this policy.

The learning services department will develop procedures to define standards-based requirements.

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

All students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements. The superintendent, or designee, 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 "online" programs, must have prior approval from the superintendent, or designee.

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. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified.

Demonstration of Competency

Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, it is an expectation that students graduating from Pueblo City Schools earn one graduation credit based on a Demonstration of Competency. A Menu of Options for Demonstration of Competency has been developed and explains the choices students have for earning this credit through assessment options or performance options. Students must demonstrate college or career readiness based on at least *ONE* of the options listed on the Menu of

Options for Demonstration of Competency to receive a Pueblo City Schools high school diploma. This menu can be found in the Planning for Graduation packet and course description guide. Students may complete the selected Demonstration of Competency at any time during their high school career.

Student course load

The course load for freshmen and sophomores shall be no fewer than 7 credits per year. The course load for juniors and seniors shall be a minimum of 5 credits per year. Students who wish to take fewer credits in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the principal.

Years of attendance

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 need the challenge provided by postsecondary 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 district graduation requirements.

Adopted: March 12, 1985

Revised: February 28, 1989

Revised: May 9, 1995

Revised May 28, 1996

Revised: January 8, 1997

Revised: August 14, 2007

Revised: November 27, 2007

Revised: April 27, 2010

Revised: August 25, 2015

Revised: May 23, 2017

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 applicable to students enrolling in 9th grade beginning in the 2012-13 school year*)
 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*)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
 AEA, Standards Based Education
 IHAC, History and Civil Government Education
 IHBG, Home Schooling
 IHBK*, Preparation For Postsecondary and Workforce Success
 IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment
 IK, Academic Achievement
 IKC, Class Rankings/Grade Point Averages
 ILBA, District Program Assessments
 ILBB, State Program Assessments
 ILBC, Literacy and Reading Comprehension Assessments