

## **DIPLOMA AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

A student may earn up to 4 credits towards a Douglas County School District high school diploma prior to the official start of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade school year.

### **I. Qualifying Course Work**

Course work must be completed in an accredited public, private, or home schooling environment and may be delivered through online/virtual or traditional schooling methodologies. An official transcript must be awarded to the student and made available to the Douglas County high school in which the student is officially enrolled.

### **II. Credit Accrual**

1. Credit will be awarded for successful completion of:
  - a. Any Douglas County School District high school summer session content course(s) as defined in the District summer school guide or approved equivalent(s) completed preceding the start of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.
  - b. Any Mathematics course(s), which exceeds the expectations of an Algebra 1 course (i.e. geometry, algebra II, Integrated II).
  - c. Any World Language course(s), which exceeds the expectations of Level 1.
  - d. Any content area course, meeting Board of Education criteria and which exceeds the expectations of a typical Douglas County 9<sup>th</sup> grade course as approved by the high school building administration.
2. .50 credit is earned for a course that generally meets for 18 weeks for at least 40 minutes daily or its equivalent and 1.0 credit is earned for a course that generally meets for 36 weeks for at least 40 minutes daily or its equivalent.

### **III. Grading and Calculation of GPA**

1. All grades earned of either “A,” “B,” or “meeting or exceeding standards” earned in qualifying courses will be calculated into the student’s cumulative high school grade point average and class ranking. Grades will be calculated on a 4-point scale unless specifically designated as a Douglas County School District weighted course. Each quarter grade will be multiplied by .25 or each semester grade by .50.
2. Grades earned in middle school, which are below these expectations, will remain on the student’s middle school transcript and will remain in the student’s overall middle school grade point average.
3. Grades earned in a summer session immediately preceding the official start of 9<sup>th</sup> grade which are below these expectations will remain on the student’s summer session transcript and will not be calculated into the high school grade point average and class ranking.

### **IV. Student Transfers**

1. Students who transfer into a Douglas County School District high school after the start of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year must provide official transcripts to validate courses successfully completed prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and which meet the expectations set forth in this document.
2. Final authority on credits earned prior to the official start of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade school year, which may be in question, reside with the high school building administration and the District Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

## REGULATION REGARDING ACCREDITATION

### I. Definition

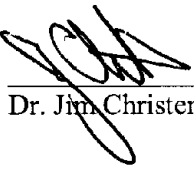
Accreditation is the process by which a third party agency verifies the effectiveness of an institution's work based on the attainment of applicable standards.

### II. Rationale

Accreditation processes support improvement through continuous self-evaluation and planning and ensures that services and policies are of high quality and aligned with clearly defined goals.

### III. Process

1. Credit will be accepted from institutions accredited by one of the five regional organizations (serving one of five defined geographic areas of the United States), including:
  - a. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
  - b. New England Association of Colleges and Schools
  - c. North Central Association – Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement
  - d. Northwest Association of Accredited of Schools
  - e. Western Association of Schools and Colleges  
(These regional accreditors work with public and private schools in their regions. Additionally, most home schooling curriculum vendors are accredited by these organizations. *Special note: Institutions in other countries are often accredited by government agencies within their country.*)
2. Credit earned through online courses/institutions will be accepted based on a review of their accreditation process and alignment to standards of quality, such as:
  - a. Institutional mission and objectives defined
  - b. Appropriate educational and student services provided
  - c. Demonstration of ample student satisfaction and achievement
  - d. Student attainment of learning outcomes documented
  - e. Qualified and competent faculty, administrators, and staff
  - f. Fair admission policies and adequate enrollment agreements defined
  - g. Continuous research and self-improvement studies conducted
3. If the credit granting institution is not accredited as defined above, Douglas County School District staff will research their accreditation status. Final authority on the accreditation status of credit granting institutions which may be in question reside with the high school building administration and the District Director of Curriculum and Instruction.
4. Other credits that may be in question will be accepted based on alignment of Douglas County course syllabi with the given course syllabi.

  
Dr. Jim Christensen

3/12/08  
Date

CROSS REFS.: IKF Diploma and Graduation Requirements (beginning with the Class of 2012)

Douglas County School District Re.1, Castle Rock, Colorado