

Board File: IKF (beginning with the Class of 2012)

DIPLOMA AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive a diploma and graduate from a Douglas County high school, a student must earn a minimum of 24 credits. A student attending a Douglas County high school using an accelerated block schedule must earn a minimum of 26.5 credits. These academic requirements reflect the minimum program, which a student can complete and still earn a high school diploma. For the majority of high school students, particularly those students who are planning post high school education, pursuit of a challenging academic program is the most important consideration.

A unit of credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course which meets at least 40 minutes daily, five days per week for one year (36 weeks) on a traditional schedule or a four or more hour college semester hour course (1 credit); the equivalent time is 120 clock hours. One half credit is given for successful completion of a class which meets at least 40 minutes daily five days per week for one semester (18 weeks) on a traditional schedule or a two or more hour college semester hour course. Nontraditional schedules will be translated to this standard for the purpose of determining course credit.

Douglas County students will begin accruing credits towards earning a diploma and graduation upon completion of high school level courses as identified in IKF-R.

Academic Requirements

A. To receive a diploma a student must meet all of the following:

1. Earn a minimum of 24 units of credit or 26.5 units of credit in an accelerated block.

Specifically, students must successfully complete:

CORE Curricular Areas Credits Required

Language Arts 4.0
Mathematics 3.0*
Science 3.0
Social Studies 3.0**
Practical Arts 1.0
Fine Arts 1.0
Physical Education 1.0
Speech Communication 0.0**

Total Core Required 16
Electives 8.0
10.5 accelerated block

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED 24 or 26.5 accelerated block

*At least one of the three credits of mathematics must include Algebra 1.

** District approved alternative model for Speech Communication

2. Document a minimum of twenty hours of community service while enrolled as a high school student as identified in IKF-R.

B. To earn credit in a class, students must demonstrate proficiency on the content standards embedded in the course. Documentation that these standards have been achieved will be through teacher judgment based on District assessments, end-of-course tests or other measurements as well as meeting other stipulated course expectations.

Students who do not achieve these standards will be enrolled in courses or programs as prescribed by the school principal and faculty.

Students identified as disabled and having IEPs may demonstrate that they have met the Douglas County Content Standards by successfully completing the standards identified in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). Course content and/or graduation requirements may be adjusted for those students identified as disabled, under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act through the IEP process as identified in IKF-R

C. With prior approval of the high school principal, up to a total of (6) credits of approved correspondence, college/university courses (for 11th/12th grade students only through the post secondary options act), and/or on-line courses from an accredited educational institution, as identified in IKF-R, may be used to meet either the electives or required portion of the academic requirements to receive a diploma.

Residency Requirements

A diploma will be issued from the school in which the student spent his/her last full semester prior to meeting Douglas County Graduation Requirements unless prior written arrangements have been secured from the principal of the receiving school.

Ninth, tenth, and first semester eleventh grade students who transfer into a Douglas County High School must satisfactorily meet all of the District's Academic Requirements, Responsible Citizenship Expectations and community service requirement to receive a diploma from a Douglas County High School.

Second semester eleventh and twelfth grade students who transfer into a Douglas County High School must satisfactorily meet all of the District's 16 "Core Credit" requirements, the District's Responsible Citizenship Expectations, community service requirement, and at least 6.5 or 9.5 accelerated block of the 8.0 or 10.5 accelerated block "Elective Credit" requirement to receive a diploma from a Douglas County High School.

Participation In Graduation Exercises

To participate in graduation exercises students must meet all of the following:

1. Successfully complete all of the "academic requirements," as described above, including correspondence and other out-of-school course work no later than forty-eight hours prior to graduation exercises;
2. Students identified as disabled, under the individuals with disabilities education act, must successfully complete all of the "academic requirements" as described in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students' transition requirements for credit need not be completed prior to their participation in graduation exercises;

3. Be a full time student (as defined as taking the equivalent of five classes per semester which are transcribed through a Douglas County High School);
4. Wear, without alteration, the designated cap and gown and must have appearance and dress that conforms with standards established by the Board of Education and/or building principal;
5. Demonstrate behavior (during the semester prior to graduation) deemed by the building principal, to be compatible with the District's Responsible Citizenship Expectations and, as described in IKF-R;
6. Cooperate fully with the school's staff during all school sponsored senior activities, including graduation exercises; and,
7. Return all school/District property and clear all outstanding debts owed the school

Certificate of Attendance (foreign exchange students)

The foreign exchange student may participate in the high school graduation ceremony and receive a certificate of attendance if the student has successfully completed all enrolled courses.

Notification of Postsecondary Opportunities

Students are encouraged to begin planning during their high school years so they will be adequately prepared for postsecondary opportunities upon graduation. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) is required to provide information to the parents/guardians of eighth grade students about postsecondary educational opportunities including admission requirements for institutions of higher education in Colorado. Prior to a student's enrollment in ninth grade courses, the District will make information available to the parents/guardians of eighth grade students concerning the courses the District offers that meet the CCHE admission requirements.

Adopted: February 5, 1980

Revised: April 4, 1989

Revised: March 19, 1991

Revised: July 19, 1994

Revised: August 15, 2000

Revised: December 5, 2000

Revised: July 16, 2002

Revised: September 20, 2005

Revised: February 20, 2007

Revised February 17, 2009

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 22-1-103 through 22-1-111 (*General Provisions*)

C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(ff) (*Board of Education – specific duties*)

CROSS REFS.:

IKE-R, Promotion and Retention of Students

IKFA, Early Graduation

JECBA, Admission of Foreign Students

and/or the School District.