

Frequently Asked Questions
DCSD Graduation Regulation IKF-R, Class of 2012
Earning Credits Prior to Beginning the 9th grade year

- 1. Does taking Algebra 1 in middle school meet this regulation?**
No. Algebra 1 is increasingly seen among middle school curricula, and more and more students are completing Algebra 1 while in middle school. The intent of this regulation was to allow for credit accrual for course work not typically completed in middle school. However, all students earning a Douglas County School District diploma must have completed at least this level of mathematics at some point during their educational program.
- 2. What about other areas of the graduation policy such as community service? Can these requirements be met prior to the 9th grade?**
No.
- 3. What about students doing above grade level work prior to 9th grade?**
It is possible for students to be working above grade level prior to 9th grade and be receiving differentiated instruction, and not earn high school credits. Credit will only be given to students prior to the 9th grade year when enrolled in a course(s) which meets the expectations set forth in IKF-R.
- 4. What if a student has a “C” during one of the grading periods? Does this mean that a student cannot count this course and credit towards their high school diploma?**
This is a tough question given so many potential grading systems from schools outside of Douglas County and outside of Colorado. Standards based practices would give more credibility to grades earned later in the school year. If a student’s performance were in question based upon the guidelines of this regulation, a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better in the course would meet the expectations of this regulation.
- 5. Won’t students who earn credits prior to 9th grade be at a disadvantage compared to other students when calculating a cumulative GPA since they will have a greater total number of credits?**
This is a possibility. The graduation policy requires a minimum of 25.5 credits to earn a diploma. Currently, some students just meet this credit limit while other students go beyond this minimum. In addition, students follow multiple pathways towards a high school diploma. Some students take one or more weighted courses. There are a number of variables that would impact a student’s cumulative GPA. The decision to enroll in a course in middle school that meets the expectations of this policy and regulation should be made based upon a student’s readiness for the content and learning expectations.
- 6. What does it mean to be an “accredited public, private, or home schooling environment?”**
At this time, we continue to work to define this portion of the regulation as it applies to other credits earned, such as through online/virtual environments, correspondence programs and alternative educational options. We anticipate the clarification to this terminology within the next week or two. In the interim, we ask that you work with our District Curriculum and Instruction office if in doubt.*