

Cottonwood Joint School District No. 242

INSTRUCTION

2700P

High School Graduation Requirements

Publication of Graduation Requirements

Prior to registering for high school, each student will be provided with a copy of the current graduation requirements. Graduation requirements are subject to change due to changes in State and District policies. Graduation requirements shall also be included in the student handbook, which is updated and published each school year.

Students who wish to enter one of Idaho's colleges or universities should contact the high school counselor to determine course requirements for the school of their choice. These requirements are often greater than those required for graduation.

Credits

Students shall be expected to earn a total of 46 semester credits (**Note: A minimum of 46 semester credits (1 semester equaling ½ year) is required**) in order to complete graduation requirements. Special education students who have successfully completed their IEP leading to completion of high school will be awarded a diploma.

The core of instruction is **29 semester credits**:

Secondary Language Arts and Communication		9 credits
English (language study, composition, literature)	8 credits	
Speech or Debate	1 credit	

Mathematics		6 credits*
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Algebra I (or meets Algebra I standards)	2 credits
Geometry (or meets Geometry standards)	2 credits
Secondary Mathematics of the student's choice	2 credits

*(Two credits must be taken in the last year of high school in which the student intends to graduate. For the purposes of this procedure, the last year of high school shall include the summer preceding the fall start of classes. Students who return to school during the summer or the following fall of the next year for less than a full schedule of courses due to failing to pass a course other than math are not required to retake a math course as long as they have earned six credits of high school level mathematics.)

Science

Secondary Science		6 credits*
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*(4 credits shall be laboratory sciences)

Social Studies		5 credits
Government	2 credits	
US History	2 credits	
Economics	1 credit	

Arts and Humanities		2 credits
Interdisciplinary humanities, visual and performing arts, or Foreign language		

Health/Wellness		1 credit*
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*(For students who enter 9th grade in Fall 2015 or later, each student shall receive a minimum of 1 class period on psychomotor cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training as outlined in the American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines for CPR to include the proper utilization of an automatic external defibrillator (AED) as part of the Health/Wellness course. Additionally, Students participating in one season in any sport recognized by the Idaho High School Activities Association or club sport recognized by the local school district, or 18 weeks of a sport recognized by the local school district may choose to substitute participation up to one credit of physical education.)

Middle School Credit

If a middle school student completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher before entering the 9th grade, and if that course meets the same standards that are required in high school and the course is taught by a teacher certified to teach high school content then the student has met the high school content area requirement for such course. The student shall be given a grade for the successful completion of that course and such grade and the number of credit hours assigned to the course shall be transferred to the student's high school transcript and the student's parent or guardian shall be notified in advance when credits are going to be transcribed. However, the student's parent/guardian may elect to not have the credits and grade transferred to the student's high school transcript. The student still must complete the required number of credits in all high school core subjects identified above in addition to the courses completed in middle school, unless the student is a participant in the 8 in 6 Program.

College Entrance Examination

A student must take one of the following college entrance or placement examinations before the end of the student's 11th grade year: COMPASS, ACT, or SAT.

A student may elect an exemption in their 11th grade year from the college entrance exam requirement if the student is:

1. Enrolled in a special education program and has an Individual Education Plan that specifies accommodations not allowed for a reportable score on the approved tests;
2. Enrolled in a Limited English Proficient program for three academic years or less;

3. Enrolled for the first time in grade 12 at an Idaho high school after the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam; or
4. Eligible to take an alternative assessment. In this case the student may instead take the ACCUPLACER placement exam during their senior year.

A student who misses the statewide administration of the college exam during the student's 11th grade year may instead take the examination during his or her 12th grade year if the student:

1. Transferred to an Idaho school district during his or her 11th grade year;
2. Was homeschooled during his or her 11th grade year; or
3. Missed the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam for a documented medical reason.

Senior Project

A student shall complete a senior project that includes a research paper and oral presentation by the end of grade 12.

Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT)

In addition to obtaining the necessary credits as outlined above, a student will take the Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) as defined by State Board of Education rules.

Civics Test

Beginning with the class of 2017, all secondary students must successfully pass the civics test or alternate path. "Civics test" as used herein means the 100 questions used by officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services as a basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization.

Any student who participates in a United States Government and Politics course and an associated college credit-bearing examination shall be deemed to have met this requirement.

The District will determine the method and manner in which to administer the civics test. A student may take the civics test, in whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade 7 and may repeat the test as often as necessary to pass the test. The District will document on the student's transcript that the student has passed the civics test.

The applicability of this requirement for students who receive special education services will be governed by the student's Individualized Education Plan.

Waiver of Requirement

Graduation requirements generally will not be waived under any circumstances. However, in rare and unique hardship circumstances, the principal may recommend and the Superintendent may approve minor deviation from the graduation requirements.

Alternative Programs

Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for planned learning experiences from accredited programs, such as summer school, university courses, correspondence courses, and online/virtual courses.

Credit for work experience may be offered when the work program is a part of and supervised by the school.

All classes attempted at Prairie Jr./Sr. High School and all acceptable transfer credits shall be recorded on the transcript. All grades earned, including failures and retakes, shall be recorded as such and utilized in the calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) and class rank. Credit shall be awarded only once regardless of repetition of the course.

Honor Roll

A student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be placed on the honor roll. To be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian, the student must qualify for a diploma and must be a full-time student at a District high school four consecutive semesters prior to graduation. Valedictorian and salutatorian awards will be computed at the end of the seventh semester. GPAs will be calculated to two decimal places.

Class Rank (GPA)

Class rank is compiled from semester grades. Courses not eligible for GPA are designated with an asterisk on the report card.

Early Graduation

A student who completes all of the graduation requirements set forth by the District and the State Department of Education prior to the completion of eight semesters of school attendance in grades 9 through 12 may petition for early graduation. The deadline for filing an application for early graduation is 12 months prior to the requested graduation date.

To graduate early the student and/ parent or guardian must:

1. Meet with counselor to issue an audit of transcripts and obtain a letter of support;
2. Meet with high school principal and obtain a letter of support;

3. Meet with Superintendent with the recommendations of the two previous staff members. The Superintendent will give a recommendation as to whether the Board should approve the student's request for early graduation;
4. The student and/or their parent/guardian must present the request for early graduation to the Board no later than 12 months prior to the requested graduation date.

The Board will permit early graduation under unusual and unique circumstances for students who would benefit from early graduation. Early graduates may participate in the regular spring commencement ceremonies.

The Superintendent is authorized to create any procedures necessary to assist students to achieve early graduation as well create incentives for participation in any early graduation program. Existing programs providing incentives to complete coursework early are described in Policy 2435 Advanced Opportunities.

Cross Reference:	2435	Advanced Opportunities
	2710	Alternative Measure to the ISAT
	2715	Secondary Route to Graduation

Legal Reference:	I.C. § 33-1620, <i>et seq.</i>	Mastery Advancement Pilot Program
	IDAPA 08.02.01.350	Early Graduation
	IDAPA 08.02.03.105	High School Graduation Requirements
	IDAPA 08.02.03.107	Middle Level Credit System

Procedure History:

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