

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 credits (Note: Starting with the class of 2028) A minimum of 46 semester credits is required to complete graduation requirements. One credit shall be equal to 60 hours of instruction. 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 30 semester credits:

Secondary Language Arts and Communication		9 credits
English (language study, composition, literature)	8 credits	
Speech, Debate, or activities meeting the Idaho Speech content standards	1 credit	

Mathematics		6 credits*
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	

Dual credit engineering and computer science courses aligned to the state standards for grades 9 through 12 may be counted as mathematics.

**Students who choose to take computer science or engineering courses may not concurrently count such courses as both a mathematics and science credit*

Science

Secondary Science		6 credits*
*(4 credits shall be required from at least two of the four content areas: physics, chemistry, earth and space or life science. As additional two credits may include applied		

sciences, physics, chemistry, earth and space science, life science, engineering or computer science. Students who choose to take computer science and dual credit engineering may not concurrently count such courses as both a mathematics and science credit.)

Social Studies		6 credits
Government	2 credits	
US History	2 credits	
Economics and Financial Literacy	2 credit	

Fine Arts or World Language		2 credits
Interdisciplinary humanities, visual and performing arts, or Foreign language	2 credits*	
* Literature, history, philosophy, architecture, or comparative world religious may satisfy this requirement if the standards of the course are aligned to Interdisciplinary Humanities content standards.		

Health/Wellness		1 credit*
* Course must be aligned to the Idaho Health Content Standards.		

Each student shall receive a minimum of one training on CPR training as outlined in the American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR to include the proper utilization of an automatic external defibrillator (AED) as part of the Health/Wellness course.

Digital Literacy (starting with the class of 2028)		1 credit
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Additionally, students participating in one season in any sport recognized by the Idaho High School Activities Association or club sport recognized by the District, or 18 weeks of a sport recognized by the District may choose to substitute participation for 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 that course. The student shall be given a grade for the successful completion of that course and their grade and the number of credit hours assigned to the course shall be transferred to the student's high school transcript. The student's parent/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.

Future Readiness Project

Beginning with the class of 2028, a student shall complete a Future Readiness Project by the end of grade 12. Future Readiness Projects are an individualized student project and shall include an experiential component, such as work-based, service-based, research-based, or portfolio-based experience in which the student demonstrates acquisition of the Idaho College and Career Competencies adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education. The project does not have to be a course and can be completed throughout a student's high school experience. The project may be accomplished through apprenticeships, internships, volunteer work, and extracurricular activities related to real world skills acquisition.

The classes of 2026 and 2027 shall complete the Future Readiness Project by completing a senior project that includes a written report and oral presentation by the end of grade 12. Senior projects may be multi-year projects, group or individual projects, or approved pre-internship or school to work internship or school to work internship programs at the discretion of the District. The project must include elements of research, development of a thesis using experiential learning or integrated project-based learning experiences, and a presentation of the outcome. **Additional requirements for the senior project are the discretion of the District.**

Completion of a postsecondary certificate or degree at the time of high school graduation or an approved pre-internship or internship program may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Localized Pathway

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish and post on the District's website two localized pathways by June 30, 2026. Each pathway will be a framework of locally provided offerings that identify core and elective credits, assessments, and other opportunities aligned to post-secondary outcomes.

Civics Test

All secondary students must successfully pass the civics test or alternate path. In this policy, civics test 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 until the beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Starting at that time, the District will instead administer the new civics test adopted by the State Board of Education.

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 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 except as outlined in the Early Achievement of College/Career Readiness and Flexible Schedule portion of this policy. 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. Possible examples include summer school, university courses, correspondence courses, online/virtual courses, career-technical courses, work-based learning opportunities, extended learning opportunities, and mastery-based education.

Credit for work experience may be offered when the work program is a part of and supervised by the school and, in the case of activities awarding credit for core academic courses, meets the required Idaho Content Standards.

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.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

To recognize exceptional academic achievement, Prairie Jr/Sr High School will honor a Valedictorian(s) and Salutatorian(s) each year from the graduating senior class. Selection is based on academic performance, rigor of coursework, and adherence to the school's academic policy.

To be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian students must be in full compliance with academic and attendance policies, including standards of academic integrity. Valedictorian and salutatorian awards will be computed at the end of the seventh semester. GPAs will be calculated on an unweighted 4.0 scale and to two decimal places.

In addition to the highest GPA at the end of the seventh semester students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must take at least 12 credits during both junior and senior year.

2. Students must complete four (4) years of high school level (eight high school credits) mathematics course that must include Algebra II and at least one math course which could include Probability and Statistics, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Math for Technology, or an IDLA Dual Credit math course past Algebra II.
3. Students must complete four (4) years of high school level (eight high school credits) science courses that must include Physical Science, Biology, one (1) year of Chemistry, and one (1) additional year of a different science course which could include Natural Science, Advanced Biology, or an IDLA Dual Credit science course.
4. Students must take at least one (1) high school credit of a humanities course which could include Art Appreciation or an IDLA Dual Credit humanities course.

Students may be disqualified from consideration at the discretion of the school administration for the following reasons:

1. Graduating early;
2. Academic dishonesty;
3. Suspension or major disciplinary action; and/or
4. Failure to comply with the district's attendance policy.

This policy will take effect the graduating class of 2030.

Class Rank (GPA)

Class rank is compiled from course grades. Courses not eligible for inclusion when calculating the GPA, such as pass/fail courses, are designated with an asterisk on the report card.

Early Completion of Graduation Requirements

A student who completes all of the graduation requirements set forth above prior to the completion of eight semesters of school attendance in grades 9 through 12 may petition the Superintendent and Board for early graduation by submitting such a petition to the Superintendent through the building principal. The Superintendent shall submit the petition to the Board for endorsement and approval at the end of the quarter preceding 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.

A student who is granted a flexible schedule must adhere to the plan submitted to the school as a part of their eligibility. Students who are under 18 may modify their plan with the approval of the student's parent/guardian.

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:

Promulgated on: April 18, 2016
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