

# **Approved Facility Schools Requirements for High School Graduation**

**Adopted  
February 22, 2012**

**Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board**

## **Members of the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board**

Kay Cessna – Chairman

Steven Ramirez – Shiloh Home

Laura Writebol – Denver Department of Social Services

Jann Clevenger – Excelsior Youth Center

Brad Schultz – Estes Park Schools

Brian Parks – Consumer Representative

## Requirements for High School Graduation

The following requirements for high school graduation were adopted by the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board at its regular meeting on February 22, 2012. A companion guidance document is also available for further information regarding implementation of the requirements and procedures for graduation. The guidance document will be updated and revised regularly and will be posted on the Facility Schools Office, Colorado Department of Education web page.

The following requirements shall apply for receipt of a High School diploma issued by the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board:

### **Graduation Requirement Components:**

Graduation from a Colorado Facility School shall consist of four components:

- 1) Successful completion of prescribed Academic Credits
- 2) Completion of applicable Independent Living Checklist Activities
- 3) Completion of a Culminating ~~and/or~~ Reflective project
- 4) Attainment of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Proficiency Level in Reading and Mathematics

### **Graduation Application Procedures:**

- An approved facility school will submit an application for graduation to the Facility Schools Office, Colorado Department of Education on behalf of each student wishing to receive a high school diploma from the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board. (changed word order)
- The application will consist of the information and completed forms as prescribed by the Facility Schools Graduation Committee and the Facility Schools Office, Colorado Department of Education.
- Relevant forms and instructions will be made available to ~~each~~ all approved facility schools and will be posted on the Facility Schools Office, Colorado Department of Education web page.
- Completed applications will be sent to the Facility Schools Office, Colorado Department of Education according to the instructions set by the Facility Schools Graduation Committee.
- The Facility Schools Graduation Committee will review ~~waiver~~ graduation applications and notify the requesting facility of its decision.
- A process for appealing decisions of the Facility Schools Graduation Committee to the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board will be made available. The decision of the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board will be final.

**Request for Waiver of Graduation Requirement(s):**

- An application for consideration of waivers of one or more graduation requirement(s) may be submitted on behalf of a student with a disability or other unique circumstances.
- The waiver application and supporting documents will be sent to the Facility Schools Office, Colorado Department of Education according to the instructions set by the Facility Schools Graduation Committee and the Facility Schools Office.
- The Facility Schools Graduation Committee will review waiver applications and notify the requesting facility of its decision.
- A process for appealing decisions of the Facility Schools Graduation Committee to the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board will be made available. The decision of the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board will be final.

## **Graduation Requirement – Academic Credits:**

To receive a high school diploma from the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board, the student will have successfully completed the following Academic Credits:

- Language Arts – 40 credits
  - 10 Literature
  - 10 Composition
  - 5 Speech/Communication
  - 15 Language Arts Electives
  
- Mathematics – 30 credits
  - 5 Geometry or integrated equivalent
  - 10 Algebra or integrated equivalent
  - 5 Financial Literacy
  - 10 Math Electives
  
- Social Studies – 30 credits
  - 5 American History
  - 5 World History
  - 5 Government/Civics
  - 5 Geography
  - 10 Cultural Studies or social studies electives
  
- Science – 20 Credits
  - 5 credits – Life Science
  - 5 credits – Earth Science
  - 10 Credits – Physical Science
  
- Other Credits – **30 Credits**
  - P.E. – 10 credits
  - Health/nutrition – 5 credits
  - Computer/Technology Literacy – 5 credits
  - Fine Arts – 5 credits
  - Service Learning – 5 credits
  
- Electives – 70 credits

**Total: 220 Credits**

### **Graduation Requirement – Independent Living Checklist:**

To receive a high school diploma from the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board, the student will have successfully completed applicable activities included on the Independent Living Checklist provided by the Facility Schools Graduation Committee.

- The Independent Living checklist will be provided to all approved facility schools and posted on the Facility Schools Office, [Colorado Department of Education](#) web page.
- The completed checklist will be submitted as part of the graduation application.

### **Graduation Requirement – Culminating [Reflective](#) Project:**

To receive a high school diploma from the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board, the student will have successfully completed a Culminating [Reflective](#) Project according to the guidelines provided by the Facility Schools Graduation Committee.

- Students will complete a Culminating Project which reflects on what they have learned and how they might use their skills and abilities in the future.
- The project should address guiding questions as specified by the Facility Schools Graduation Committee, but the method of expression/demonstration will be chosen by the student with guidance from the approved facility school.
- The Culminating [Reflective](#) project or a description of the project will be submitted as part of the graduation application.

### **Graduation Requirement – : Attainment of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Proficiency Level in Reading and Mathematics**

To receive a high school diploma from the Colorado Approved Facility Schools Board, the student will have attained at least a 5<sup>th</sup> grade proficiency level in Reading and Mathematics.

- The Facility Schools Graduation Committee will provide a list of approved tools for measurement and documentation of 5<sup>th</sup> grade proficiencies in Reading and Mathematics.
- Documentation of the proficiency levels and assessments used will be part of the graduation application.