

Book	District Policies - Jefferson County School District R-1	
Section	I: Instruction	
Title	Graduation Requirements	
Number	IKF	
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The mission of Jefferson County Public Schools is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future in college, career, and life. The district is committed to providing a learning environment that is safe, conducive to learning, and free from unnecessary disruption while providing a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future. One part of that preparation is a rigorous curriculum that prepares students for success in the next step of their lives. Success in college or in work requires strong academic preparation. A rigorous curriculum prepares students to choose admission to universities, community colleges, or apprenticeships or pursuit of career.

Being prepared for the 21st century requires mastery of Colorado Academic Standards and Jeffco competencies to ensure students are successful in college, career, and life. These competencies include;

- Civic and Global Engagement
- Communication
- Content Mastery
- Critical Thinking and Creativity
- Self Direction and Personal Responsibility

In pursuit of our mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential and are prepared for college and career, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements. The following criteria shall entitle a student to a high school diploma from Jefferson County Public Schools;

- 1) Successful completion of 23 credits in the categories listed below. A unit of credit is defined as the amount of credit earned toward graduation following demonstration of district identified criteria.
  - a. Achievement in Colorado Academic Standards as demonstrated by mastery of appropriate coursework.
  - b. Minimum requirements for a high school diploma
    - i. English – 4 credits
      1. Core classes that address all English language arts standards are required.
      2. Additional English classes may be required by the school if a student is not proficient in reading and/or writing.
    - ii. Math – 3 credits
      1. A minimum of three credits are required in senior high school. Courses must include algebra I, geometry and one additional course at or above the level of geometry.

2. Algebra I and geometry credits may be earned in middle school. Those credits are not included in the 23 credits required for graduation from senior high school.
  3. A computer science course with a pre-requisite of at least algebra I is permissible as fulfilling a mathematics requirement.
- iii. Science – 3 credits
    1. Three credits of laboratory classes in science that meet both process and content standards are required.
    2. Required classes may include courses in three of the four areas of science standards including earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics.
  - iv. Social Studies/Social Sciences – 3.5 credits
    1. Three and a half credits that must include civics, geography, American history, world history, and economics for seniors are required.
  - v. Physical Education – 0.5 credit
    1. One half credit in physical education and/or health and wellness in a course aligned with physical education standards is required.
  - vi. Fine/Practical Arts – 0.5 credit
    1. One half credit in either the fine arts defined as music, visual arts, or drama or one half credit in a career and technical education course is required.
  - vii. Electives – 8.5 credits
    1. Electives include the fine arts, technology, career and technical education, physical education, and core content electives in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and world languages.

2) For the classes of 2021 and beyond, demonstration of Career and college readiness in English and Math through one or more of the approved options in the menu below;

<b>Measure</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Math</b>
Accuplacer assessment	62	61
American College Testing (ACT)	18	19
ACT WorkKeys	Bronze or higher	Bronze or higher
Advanced Placement (AP)	2	2
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)	31	31
International Baccalaureate (IB)	4	4
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	430	460
Concurrent enrollment	Passing Grade	Passing Grade
Industry certificate	Individualized	Individualized
District capstone	Individualized	Individualized
Collaboratively-developed, standards-based performance assessment	Statewide scoring rubric	Statewide scoring rubric

\*The menu is subject to change and revision from the state. When changes are made, the district will update its policy to ensure adherence to the state's guidelines.

3) A student who has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) may be granted a diploma based on completion of the goals listed in the IEP and on the basis of modified content standards and modified course requirements.

### **Individual Career and Academic Plan**

All schools will be accountable for developing an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) for each student beginning in grade seven. Leadership for the plan will be facilitated by counselors and administrators and monitored by school personnel. The plan will be reviewed and access will be provided, at a minimum, annually in grades seven through twelve and should include participation by students, parents or legal guardian, school counselors, school administrators and school personnel. The ICAP and ICAP related data shall be available upon request to the student, parent or legal guardian and/or approved service providers in both electronic and printable form.

The ICAP will set out a course of study for each student based on completion of all requirements for graduation from Jefferson County Schools.

### **Other Requirements for Graduation**

In grades nine through twelve, students shall take at least four classes in core contents or three Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate courses every semester. Principals may waive this requirement based on individual student circumstances.

### **Core Content includes:**

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Sciences
- World Languages
- Advanced Placement classes in the arts and electives
- Post secondary options
- One half day Warren Tech programs (two of four core classes)
- Concurrent enrollment programs

### **Additional Course Opportunities**

The district recognizes the need to allow students to explore multiple pathways in order to meet graduation requirements. All courses must adhere to Colorado academic standards and align with the Jeffco guaranteed and viable curriculum. Students may earn credit for courses outside of the local senior high school program that have been developed or approved by the district. Students can seek prior approval for up to two elective credits for courses that have not been developed, approved, or reviewed by the district. Prior approval is granted by the principal.

Students who wish to earn additional credits will be allowed to do so. Additional course opportunities may include:

- Additional classes on a space available basis in the home senior high school.
- Approved summer school courses.
- Night schools in Jefferson County Public Schools.
- Credits earned at a community college.
- Courses taken through post-secondary options.
- Correspondence and/or online classes offered outside Jefferson County Schools.

- Jefferson County Public Schools online classes.
- Other defined courses.

### **Participation in Graduation Ceremonies**

- Students will be required to complete all 23 required credits for graduation for participation in graduation ceremonies. The classes of 2021 and beyond, must also demonstrate career and college readiness in English and in Math from one of the approved options in the menu above.
- Cooperation must be exhibited with school staff members and administration in high school senior activities, including the graduation ceremony.
- In order to preserve the unity of the graduation ceremony, students must conform to school-sanctioned standards and expectations for behavior and attire.
- School property must be returned, and school bills must be paid.
- Students must demonstrate adherence to the Student and Family Handbook (Code of Conduct) up to and including the day of graduation.

### **Completion of Requirements**

Upon completion of graduation requirements, students are entitled to a diploma to be issued at the time of the next graduation date and no further attendance is required.

If students fulfill graduation requirements prior to having spent four academic years in grades 9-12, they may choose to remain in school until the end of their fourth year in grades 9-12. If they choose to remain, they must meet all the school's requirements including class load, attendance, and adherence to the Student and Family Handbook (Code of Conduct)

### **Residency**

The diploma will be issued from the school in which students are enrolled during their last full semester prior to meeting graduation requirements.

Transfer students from an accredited public or private school who expect to receive a diploma from a Jefferson County school must meet all district academic requirements and the school's requirements for class load, attendance, and adherence to the Student and Family Handbook (Code of Conduct). In addition, transfer students must be enrolled for a full semester. Transfer students from non-accredited institutions and/or home schooling must meet the expectations outlined in policy JGA and regulation JGA-R, Assignment of New Students to Classes and Grade Levels.

### **Recognition and Awards**

The intent of recognition and awards at graduation ceremonies is to honor significant academic achievement. Each school will be given latitude in developing its own standards of recognition provided these standards are broad-based and involve the teaching staff and administration in the development of criteria for granting recognition.

### **Principal Waivers**

Senior high school principals can waive requirements based on individual student circumstances. All requests must be made in writing and must be included in the student's Graduation Plan.

**POLICY REFERENCES:**

~~[IKF-R, Graduation Requirements \(classes of 2013 and beyond\)](#)~~

~~[IKF, Graduation Requirements \(classes of 2008 – 2012\)](#)~~

IGA- Curriculum Development

[IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment](#)

IKC- High School Grading Systems

JGA, Assignment of New Students to Classes and Grade Levels

**LEGAL REFERENCES:**

Colorado Revised Statutes 22-1-104 (teaching history, culture and civil government),  
22-32-109 (1)(kk)(board to establish graduation requirements), 22-35-101 et seq.  
(Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act)