

**POLICY TITLE: Graduation Requirements**

**POLICY NO:**

604-00D280.00

**Minidoka County Joint School District # 331**

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Prior to registering for high school, each student shall complete a four year graduation plan and shall have access to ~~will be provided with a copy of~~ the current graduation requirements. Graduation requirements shall also be included in the student handbook.

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in the District who meets the requirements of graduation established by the District. The official transcript will indicate the specific courses taken and level of achievement.

The Board shall establish graduation requirements which, as a minimum, satisfy those established by the State Board of Education. Generally, any change in graduation requirements promulgated by the Board will become effective for the next class to enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Exceptions to this general rule may be made where it is determined by the Board that the proposed change in graduation requirements will not have a negative effect on students already in grades 9 through 12. The Board shall consider and vote on whether to approve graduation requirements as recommended by the Superintendent.

A student who possesses a disabling condition shall satisfy those competency requirements which are incorporated into the Individualized Education Program (“IEP”). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated into the IEP shall serve as the basis for determining completion of a course.

A student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be awarded after the official ceremony has been held.

The State minimum graduation requirement for all Idaho public high schools is forty-six (46) credits. The forty-six (46) credits must include twenty-nine (29) credits in core subjects as identified below. All credit-bearing classes must be aligned with state high school standards in the content areas for which standards exist. All graduation requirements must be met ~~and school fees paid in full~~ in order for students to participate in graduation exercises for either high school. Special education students who have successfully completed their IEP leading to completion of high school will be awarded a diploma.

One (1) credit shall equal sixty (60) hours of total instruction. ~~Students may also achieve credits by demonstrating mastery of a subject’s content standards as defined and approved by the school district.~~

#### **Guidelines by Content /Subject Area**

**Content Standards-** Each student shall meet locally established subject area standards (using state content standards as minimum requirements) demonstrated through various measures of accountability including examinations or other measures.

~~**Secondary Language Arts and Communication-** Nine (9) credits are required. Eight (8) credits of instruction in Language Arts. Each year of Language Arts shall consist of language study, composition,~~

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and literature and be aligned to the Idaho Content Standards for the appropriate grade level. One (1) credit of instruction in communications consisting of oral communication and technological applications that includes a course in speech, a course in debate, or a sequence of instructional activities that meet the Idaho Speech Content Standards requirements.

**Mathematics**—Six (6) semester credits are required: two (2) credits of Algebra I or courses that meet the Idaho Algebra I Content Standards as approved by the State Department of Education; two (2) credits of Geometry or courses that meet the Idaho Geometry Content Standards as approved by the State Department of Education; and two (2) credits of mathematics of the student’s choice. Two (2) credits of the required six (6) credits of mathematics must be taken in the last year of high school.

**Science**—Six (6) credits will be required. Secondary sciences include instruction in the following areas: biology, physical science or chemistry, and earth, space, environment, or approved applied science. Four (4) credits of these courses must be laboratory based.

**Social Studies**—Five (5) credits are required, including government (two (2) credits), United States history (two (2) credits), and economics (one (1) credit). Courses such as geography, sociology, psychology, and world history may be offered as electives, but are not to be counted as a social studies requirement.

**Humanities**—Two (2) credits are required. Humanities courses include instruction in visual arts, music, theatre, dance, or world language aligned to the Idaho content standards for those subjects. Other courses such as literature, history, philosophy, architecture, or comparative world religions may satisfy the humanities standards if the course is aligned to the Idaho Interdisciplinary Humanities Content Standards.

**Health/Wellness**—One (1) credit is required. Courses must be aligned to the Idaho Health Content Standards.

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

\*(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*
*(4 credits shall be laboratory sciences)	

Social Studies	5-7 credits
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<u>Government</u>	<u>2 credits</u>	
<u>US History</u>	<u>24 credits</u>	
<u>Economics</u>	<u>1 credit</u>	
<u>Computer Technology</u>	<u>1 credit</u>	
<u>Arts and Humanities</u>		<u>23 credits</u>
<u>Interdisciplinary humanities, visual and performing arts, or</u>		
<u>Foreign language</u>		

Health/Wellness (1) /Physical Education (2) 13 credits\*

\*(For students who enter 9<sup>th</sup> 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 District, or 18 weeks of a sport recognized by the 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 or 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 (1) of the following college entrance examinations before the end of the student's eleventh grade year: COMPASS, ACT or SAT. Scores must be included in the Learning Plan. **Senior Project**—A student must complete a senior project by the end of grade twelve (12). The project must include a written report and an oral presentation. Additional requirements for a senior project are at the discretion of the school district.~~

College Entrance Examination

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

A student may elect an exemption in their 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> grade year may instead take the examination during his or her 12<sup>th</sup> grade year if the student:

1. Transferred to an Idaho school district during his or her 11<sup>th</sup> grade year;
2. Was homeschooled during his or her 11<sup>th</sup> 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 written report 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.

~~**Proficiency**—Each student must achieve a proficient or advanced score on the Grade 10 Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in math, reading and language usage in order to graduate. A student who does not attain at least a proficient score prior to graduation may appeal to the school district and will be given an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency of the content standards through an approved Alternate Graduation Plan. [Check with the State—to remove]~~

~~**Middle School**—If a student completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher before entering grade nine (9), and if that course meets the same standards that are required in high school, then the student has met the high school content area requirement for such course. However, the student must complete the required number of credits in all high school core subjects, as identified herein, in addition to the courses completed in middle school.~~

#### 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. [Check with the State]

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 Program.

#### 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, college and 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 Minico High School and Mt. Harrison 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 3.05 [check] to be placed on the honor roll. Specific information regarding honors at graduation is included in the student handbook.

#### Class Rank (GPA)

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

#### 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 the Superintendent and the Board for early graduation by submitting such a petition to the Superintendent through the building principal. [Check with

~~Minico/State~~ The Superintendent shall submit the petition to the Board for endorsement and approval at the end of the quarter preceding the requested graduation date.

The Superintendent is authorized to create any procedures necessary to assist students to achieve early graduation as well as create incentives for participation in any early graduation program. Existing programs providing incentives to complete coursework early are described in Policy 276.00 Advanced Opportunities.

**Special Education Students-** A student who is eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education ~~Improvement~~ Act (IDEA) must, with the assistance of the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, refer to the current Idaho Special Education Manual for guidance in addressing graduation requirements.

**Foreign Exchange Students-** Foreign exchange students may be eligible for graduation by completing a comparable program as approved by the school district.

**Mt. Harrison High School Diploma**

**Standard Diploma**

**REQUIRED CREDITS BY ACADEMIC CATEGORY**

English	8
Math	4
Geometry	2
Speech	1
Computer Technology	2
Science	6
10 <sup>th</sup> US History	2
US History	2
Economics	1
American Government	2
Health	1
Careers	1
Humanities	2
Electives	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

**Minico High School Diplomas**

**Standard Diploma**

**Honors Diploma**

English	8	English	8
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Math	4	Math	6
Geometry	2	Geometry	2
Speech	1	Speech	1
Computer Technology	1	Computer Technology	1
Science	6	Science	6
<del>10</del> 2 <sup>nd</sup> US History	2	<del>10</del> 2 <sup>nd</sup> US History	2
US History	2	US History	2
Economics	1	Economics	1
American Government	2	American Government	2
Health	1	Health	1
Physical Education	2	Physical Education	2
Academic Humanities	<del>2</del> 2	Academic Humanities	2
Practical/Performing Humanities	1	Practical/Performing Humanities	1
Electives	15	Electives	<del>13</del>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	No failing or NC grades	
		15 honors/dual credit with 5	
		taken during the senior year	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

Additional Guidelines

Taking Fine Arts classes, Practical Arts classes, or Performing Arts classes may satisfy the Humanities requirement.

Computer Technology credit may be earned anytime during high school.

Science 4 must be lab credits.

Two of the six required mathematics credits must be taken the last year of high school, and two credits in each of the areas of Algebra I and Geometry standards must be taken.

Students must comply with the C-core policy.

School-To-Work credits will be accepted as elective credits up to a limit of 4 total credits towards graduation.

STEM Diploma

The Board may award a STEM Diploma to every student enrolled in the District who meets the requirements of graduation established by the District and also completes the following:

1. Eight credits in mathematics;
2. Eight credits in science; and
3. Five credits in the students' choice of any or all subjects of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

Students who have completed eight or more credits in mathematics that include algebra II or a higher-level mathematics class before the student’s senior year is are not required to take a mathematics class in the student’s senior year.

The official transcript will indicate the specific courses taken and level of achievement.

**SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN**

The following requirements shall be considered in the selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian:

Complete all requirements of the Diploma.

Complete a minimum of 15 credits of honors or dual credit courses, five of which must be taken during the senior year.

The student with the highest overall GPA in grades nine through twelve, including the final term of the senior year will be eligible for Valedictorian. If more than one student meets the criteria, valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined by the highest SAT score.

In the event a grade is disputed, that issue shall be resolved by the end of the term the course is taken.

Students being considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian must have attended Minico High School full time for all of their senior year

Students being considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian shall not have repeated any classes

Graduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher will be recognized at graduation with an honor cord.



**LEGAL REFERENCE: \_\_\_\_\_**

**IDAPA 08.01.350 Early Graduation**

**IDAPA 08.02.01.250.02 Required Attendance**

**IDAPA 08.02.03.105 High School Graduation Requirements**

**IDAPA 08.02.03.107 Middle Level Credit System**

**ADOPTED: February 20, 2012**

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