

POLICY 4060

High School Graduation Requirements

- A. The District's curriculum shall at least meet the minimum requirements of state law and State Board rules. Those minimum requirements are to contain the essential elements of each subject at appropriate grade levels. The essential elements represent the core knowledge, skills, and competencies all students should learn to be effective and productive members of society. The District may add elements at its discretion but shall not delete or omit instruction in the essential elements.
- B. In addition, the District shall provide character education in connection with regular schoolwork, through an integrated curriculum approach. Instruction in this area shall emphasize honesty, temperance, morality, courtesy, obedience to law, respect for and an understanding of the constitutions of the United States and the state of Utah, the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system, respect for parents and home, and the dignity and necessity of honest labor and other skills, habits, and qualities of character which will promote an upright and desirable citizenry and better prepare students for a richer, happier life.

[Utah Code § 53G-10-204 \(2022\)](#)

- C. All students awarded a High School Diploma from a regular high school in Box Elder School District shall complete the following minimum requirements as required by the Utah State Board of Education and Box Elder School District during grades 9-12:

Number of Credits Required

1. Language Arts (4.5 credits)
 - a. Ninth grade level (1.5 credits);
 - b. Tenth grade level (1.0 credit);
 - c. Eleventh grade level (1.0 credit);
 - d. Twelfth grade level (1.0) credit) consisting of applied or advanced Language Arts credit, consistent with the student's Plan for College and Career Readiness, from a list of courses approved by the Board of Education and the State Board of Education, which courses

- 1) Are within the field or discipline of language arts, with a significant portion of instruction aligned to language arts content, principles, knowledge, and skills;
 - 2) Provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of language arts;
 - 3) Apply the fundamental concepts and skills of language arts;
 - 4) Provide developmentally appropriate content; and
 - 5) Develop skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and presentation.
- e. A student may receive up to 0.5 credit for Language Arts for a course or school-sponsored activity emphasizing verbal communication during any year from grade 9 to 12.
2. Mathematics (3.5 credits)
- a. This requirement shall be met minimally through successful completion of the foundation or foundation extended courses
 - 1) Secondary Math I (1.5 credits);
 - 2) Secondary Math II (1.0 credit);
 - 3) Secondary Math III (1.0 credit).
 - b. With a written request from the student's parent or guardian, a student may opt out of Secondary Mathematics III. In that case, the student shall successfully complete another mathematics course from among the advanced and applied courses from on the State Board of Education's list of approved mathematics courses.
 - c. 7th and 8th grade students may earn credit for one of the mathematics foundation courses before 9th grade, consistent with the student's Plan for College and Career Readiness and if at least one of the following criteria are met:
 - 1) The student is identified as gifted in mathematics in accordance with the procedures outlined in State Board of Education Rule [R277-707](#);

- 2) The student is dual enrolled at the middle school or junior high school and the high school;
 - 3) The student qualifies for promotion one or two grade levels above the student's age group and is placed in 9th grade; or
 - 4) The student takes the State Board of Education competency test in the summer prior to 9th grade and earns high school graduation credit for the course.
- d. For other students (than those in the prior section) who earn credit for a foundation course before 9th grade, the student shall still fill the required 3.0 units of credit by successful completion of other mathematics courses approved by the State Board of Education, consistent with the student's Plan for College and Career Readiness, which courses
- 1) Are within the field or discipline of mathematics with a significant portion of instruction aligned to mathematics content, principles, knowledge, and skills;
 - 2) Provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of mathematics;
 - 3) Apply the fundamental concepts and skills of mathematics;
 - 4) Provide developmentally appropriate content; and
 - 5) Include the Standards for Mathematical Practice as listed in the Utah secondary mathematics core.
- e. A student who successfully completes a Calculus course with a "C" grade or better has completed mathematics graduation requirements regardless of the number of mathematics credits earned.
3. Science (3.0 credits) including
- a. two credits from the five science foundation areas:
 - 1) Earth Systems Science (1.0 credit) from the following:
 - a) Earth Science; or
 - b) Advanced Placement Environmental Science

- 2) Biological Science (1.0 credit) from the following:
 - a) Biology;
 - b) Biology: Agricultural Science and Technology;
 - c) Advanced Placement Biology; or
 - d) Biology with Lab Concurrent Enrollment
 - 3) Chemistry (1.0 credit) from the following:
 - a) Chemistry;
 - b) Advanced Placement Chemistry; or
 - c) Chemistry with Lab Concurrent Enrollment
 - 4) Physics (1.0 credit) from the following:
 - a) Physics;
 - b) Advanced Placement Physics (1, 2, D: Electricity and Magnetism, or C: Mechanics); or
 - c) Physics with Lab Concurrent Enrollment
 - 5) Computer Science (1.0 credit) from the following:
 - a) Advanced Placement Computer Science;
 - b) Computer Science Principles; or
 - c) Computer Programming 2; and
- b. 1.0 additional unit of credit consistent with the student's Plan for College and Career Readiness, from the foundation courses or a list of applied or advanced science courses approved by the Board of Education and State Board of Education, which courses

- 1) Are within the field or discipline of science with a significant portion of instruction aligned to science content, principles, knowledge, and skills;
 - 2) Provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of science;
 - 3) Apply the fundamental concepts and skills of science;
 - 4) Provide developmentally appropriate content;
 - 5) Include the areas of physical, natural, or applied sciences; and
 - 6) Develop students' skills in scientific inquiry.
4. Social Studies (3.0 credits) including
- a. World Geography (0.5 credit);
 - b. World History (0.5 credit);
 - c. U.S. History (1.0 credit);
 - d. U.S. Government and Citizenship (0.5 credit);
 - e. Elective Social Studies (0.5 credit)
 - f. Successful completion of the basic civics test unless the student qualifies for an alternative assessment as provided for by the Utah State Board of Education.
(See [Policy 4061 Curriculum: American Heritage](#))
5. Arts (1.5 credits) from any of the following areas:
- a. Visual Arts
 - b. Music
 - c. Dance
 - d. Theater
 - e. Media Arts

6. Health Education (0.5 credit)
7. Physical Education (1.5 credits)
 - a. Participation Skills (0.5 credit)
 - b. Fitness or Swim for Life (0.5 credit)
 - c. Individualized Lifetime Activities (0.5 credit)
 - d. Team sport/athletic participation (may earn 0.5 credits per sport up to a maximum of 1.0 credit with school approval to replace Participation Skills and Individualized Lifetime Activities.) [USBE Physical Education Guidelines](#)
8. Career & Technical Education (1.0 credit) from among the following areas:
 - a. Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
 - b. Architecture and Construction
 - c. Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications
 - d. Business, Finance and Marketing
 - e. Computer Science and Information Technology
 - f. Education and Training
 - g. Engineering and Technology
 - h. Health Science
 - i. Hospitality and Tourism
 - j. Human Services
 - k. Law, public Safety, Corrections and Security
 - l. Manufacturing
 - m. Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

9. Digital Studies (0.5 credit) from among the following areas: ([USBE Digital Studies Approved Courses](#))
 - a. Business Office Specialist
 - b. Computer Programming, I
 - c. Computer Science Principles
 - d. Digital Business Applications
 - e. Exploring Computer Science or
 - f. Web Development

10. General Financial Literacy (0.5 credit)

11. Library Media Skills (integrated into the subject areas)

D. TOTAL CREDIT AVAILABLE - 36.0

1. TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION - 30.0

a. TOTAL REQUIRED CORE CREDITS - 19.5

b. REQUIRED ELECTIVE CREDITS – MINIMUM - 10.5

E. Additional Provisions

1. The District may modify a student's graduation requirements to meet the unique educational needs of the student if the student has a disability and the modifications to graduation requirements are made through the student's IEP.
2. A student may be awarded a certificate of completion if they meet 1 (one) of the following criteria:
 - a. the student has a disability and has completed their senior year and is exiting the school system; however, has not met the State and District requirements for graduation, but has met the goals set forth by the student's IEP, or
 - b. the student was enrolled throughout and has completed their senior year, is exiting the school system, has not met the State and District requirements for

graduation, and made a sincere effort to complete high school as determined by school administration.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-705-4 \(November 7, 2024\)](#)

3. College and Career Readiness Mathematics Competency
 - a. A student who is pursuing a college degree after graduation is encouraged to take a full year mathematics course during the student's senior year unless the student has, before the beginning of the senior year, met one of the following requirements:
 - 1) A score of 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) calculus AB or BC exam;
 - 2) A score of 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) statistics exam;
 - 3) A score of 5 or higher on an International Baccalaureate (IB) higher level math exam;
 - 4) A score of 50 or higher on a College Level Exam Program (CLEP) pre-calculus or calculus exam;
 - 5) A score of 26 or higher on the mathematics portion of the American College Test (ACT) exam;
 - 6) A score of 640 or higher on the mathematics portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) exam; or
 - 7) A "C" grade or higher in a concurrent enrollment mathematics course that satisfies a state system of higher education quantitative literacy requirement.
 - b. A non-college degree seeking student shall complete appropriate math competencies for the student's career goals as described in the student's Plan for College and Career Readiness.
4. Students qualify for a diploma upon completion of all required credits. The opportunity to participate in graduation exercises is a privilege and may be based on behavior/citizenship.

5. These graduation requirements are consistent with State (USBE) requirements with the exception of Language Arts and Math, which have been adjusted due to the 3-trimester schedule for core classes in the 9th grade.
6. Students will be offered a full schedule to be taken as elective classes or released from school for approved activities.

F. A Student Desiring a 24 Credit Diploma

1. If a student has completed the required core credits (18.5) and at least 5.5 elective credits for a 24-credit diploma, the student will be transferred to Sunrise High School to receive this 24-credit High School Diploma. The student may participate in graduation ceremonies with Sunrise High School if desired but will not be part of BEHS or BRHS graduation ceremonies.
2. A special education eligible student may earn a 24-credit diploma if it is determined by their IEP team that their disability requires special graduation requirements. Special Education students receiving special graduation accommodations will be eligible to walk with their school of attendance.

G. Types of Diplomas or Certificates

1. The District will award a diploma or certificate of completion to students who complete the requirements as follows:
 - a. High School Diploma
 - 1) Successful completion of the core curriculum and all state course requirements.
 - 2) Successful completion of credits beyond the core curriculum as required by District policy.
 - 3) Enrollment in the District for at least one semester immediately prior to graduation.
 - b. Certificate of Completion
 - 1) Completion of senior year;
 - 2) Exiting or aging out of the school system; and

- 3) Have not met all state or District requirements for a diploma
- c. The District will not enroll a student with intent to award a diploma or certificate of completion after the student has earned a high school equivalence.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-705-4 \(November 7, 2024\)](#)
[Utah Code § 53G-6-406 \(2019\)](#)

- d. Adult education students will be awarded diplomas as set forth in [Policy 4120 Community Adult High School](#).

2. Special Education Students

- a. Special education students shall satisfy high school completion or graduation criteria, consistent with state and federal law and the student's IEP. Such students may be awarded a certificate of completion or a diploma as set forth above, consistent with state and federal law and the student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-705-4 \(November 7, 2024\)](#)

- b. A student with a significant cognitive disability may be awarded an alternate diploma if the student accesses grade-level Core standards through the Essential Elements, the student's IEP team makes graduation substitutions in the same content area from a list of alternative courses approved by the State Superintendent, and the student meets all graduation requirements prior to exiting school at or before age 22. An alternate diploma may not indicate that the recipient is a student with a disability. Notwithstanding the award of an alternate diploma, the District may still be obligated to provide FAPE to an eligible student in accordance with IDEA.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-705-5 \(November 7, 2024\)](#)

3. Methods of Obtaining Credit

- a. Credits towards graduation may be obtained and recorded on the student's transcript by the following methods:
 - 1) Successful completion of courses in the high schools of the District.
 - 2) Successful completion of concurrent-enrollment college courses.

- 3) Satisfaction of coursework by demonstrated competency under policies established by the District following appropriate review.
 - 4) Successful completion of assessment tests in particular subject areas, as established by District policy.
 - 5) Evaluation of student work or projects consistent with District or school procedures and criteria.
 - 6) Successful completion, as determined by the District or school, of correspondence or electronic coursework with prior approval by the District or school to the extent practicable.
 - 7) Transfer credits awarded to a student by a school or provider accredited by an accrediting entity adopted by the State Board of Education, which credits shall be accepted as issued by the school, without alteration.
- b. A student who is enrolled in an approved Focused Graduation Pathway program may also earn credit by passing GED examinations as provided in [Policy 4059 Focused Graduation Pathway](#). Before reviewing a student's home school or competency work, assessment, or materials with regard to a request for credit, the District shall require documentation of compliance with [Utah Code § 53G-6-204](#) (relating to excuse from compulsory school attendance).

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-705-3 \(November 7, 2024\)](#)
[Utah Code § 53G-7-206 \(2019\)](#)

4. Notice of Credit Requirements

- a. Each school within the District shall provide to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each student enrolling in the school specific and adequate notice of the District's requirements and limitations for awarding credit, including credits transferred from other schools or education providers and credits awarded from other sources under this policy.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-705-3\(1\)\(b\) \(November 7, 2024\)](#)