

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 ~~units of~~ credits);
 - b. Tenth grade level (1.0 ~~unit of~~ credit);
 - c. Eleventh grade level (1.0 ~~unit of~~ credit);
 - d. Twelfth grade level (1.0 ~~unit of~~ 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 ~~courses from the list of State Board-approved courses consistent with the student's PCGR.~~

- 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 ~~units of~~ credits);
 - 2) Secondary Math II (1.0 ~~unit of~~ credit);
 - 3) Secondary Math III (1.0 ~~unit of~~ credit).
 - b. With a written request from the student's parent or guardian, a ~~s~~Students may opt out of Secondary Mathematics III ~~with written parent request~~. In that case, the student shall successfully complete another mathematics course ~~If an opt-out is requested, the third mathematics credit shall come~~ from among the advanced and applied courses ~~from on the list of~~ State Board of Education's list of approved ~~mathematics~~ courses ~~consistent with the student's PCGR~~.
 - 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. ~~at a minimum,~~ two credits from the five science foundation areas:
- 1) Earth Systems Science (1.0 ~~unit of~~ credit) from the following:
 - a) Earth Science; or
 - b) Advanced Placement Environmental Science
 - 2) Biological Science (1.0 ~~unit of~~ 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 ~~unit of~~ credit) from the following:**
- a) **Chemistry;**
 - b) **Advanced Placement Chemistry; or**
 - c) **Chemistry with Lab Concurrent Enrollment**
- 4) **Physics (1.0 ~~unit of~~ 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 ~~unit of~~ credit) from the following:**
- a) **Advanced Placement Computer Science;**
 - b) **Computer Science Principles; or**
 - c) **Computer Programming 2; and**
- b. **~~one 1.0 additional unit of credit, from the foundation courses or the applied or advanced science courses from the list of State Board-approved courses consistent with the student's PCCR 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 ~~units of~~ credit);
 - b. World History (0.5 ~~units of~~ credit);
 - c. U.S. History (1.0 ~~unit of~~ credit);
 - d. U.S. Government and Citizenship (0.5 ~~units of~~ credit);
 - e. Elective Social Studies (0.5 ~~units of~~ 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](#))
- ~~Utah Admin. Rules R277-700-8 (March 14, 2018)~~
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 ~~units~~ credit)
7. Physical Education (~~2.0~~ 1.5 credits)
- a. Participation Skills (0.5 ~~units of~~ credit)

- b. Fitness ~~or Swim~~ for Life (0.5 ~~units-of~~ credit)
 - c. Individualized Lifetime Activities (0.5 ~~units-of~~ credit)
 - d. Team sport/athletic participation (may earn 0.5 ~~units-credits~~ per sport up to a maximum of 1.0 ~~units-of~~ credit ~~with school approval to replace Participation Skills and Individualized Lifetime Activities can be earned for team sport/athletic participation 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. ~~Computer Technology or qualifying~~ Digital Studies ~~course~~ (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 - ~~24.0~~ 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.
 - ~~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 \(January 11, 2023\)](#)

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. ~~Beginning the 2024-25 school year, 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.