

Homedale Joint School District No. 370

INSTRUCTION

2700P

High School Graduation Requirements

Publication of Graduation Requirements

Prior to registering in high school, each student will be provided with a copy of the current graduation requirements. Graduation requirements shall also be included in the student handbook.

Credits

Students shall be expected to earn a total of 46 semester credits in order to complete graduation requirements. Special education students who have successfully completed their IEP leading to completion of high school will be awarded a diploma.

Students will be required to have earned a 2.0 cumulative Grade Point Average in order to be eligible for a Homedale School District high school diploma.

The core of instruction is **twenty-nine (29) semester credits**:

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	
Mathematics course of the student's choice	2 credits	
<i>*(Two (2) credits must be taken during 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 (6) credits of high school level mathematics.)</i>		
Science		6 credits*
<i>*(Four (4) credits shall be laboratory sciences)</i>		
Social Studies		5 credits
Government	2 credits	
U.S. History	2 credits	
Economics	1 credit	
<u>Arts and Humanities</u>		2 credits
Interdisciplinary humanities, visual and performing arts, or foreign language		

Health/Wellness

1 credit*

*(For students who enter 9th grade in Fall 2015 or later, each student shall receive a minimum of one (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 local school district, or 18 weeks of a sport recognized by the local school district may choose to substitute participation up to one credit of physical education.)

Elective Classes

17 credits

Middle School Credit

If a middle school student completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher before entering the ninth 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. ~~However, the~~ 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 of the following college entrance or placement examinations before the end of the student's eleventh grade year: COMPASS, ACT, or SAT.

A student may elect an exemption in their eleventh (11th) 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 (3) academic years or less;
3. Enrolled for the first time in grade twelve (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 eleventh (11th) grade year may instead take the examination during his or her twelfth (12th) grade year if the student:

1. Transferred to an Idaho school district during his or her eleventh (11th) grade year;
2. Was homeschooled during his or her eleventh (11th) 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 research paper and oral presentation by the end of grade twelve (12).

Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT)

In addition to obtaining the necessary credits as outlined above, a student will show proficiency on the Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) as defined by State Board of Education rules. Students who receive a proficient or advanced score on the grade ten (10) ISAT while in grade nine (9) may bank the score for purposes of meeting their graduation requirements. Students who do not attain at least a proficient score on the Idaho Student Achievement Test will have the option of appealing to the Board of Trustees for relief from the ISAT proficiency requirement. Students who choose to appeal must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must be enrolled in a special education program and have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP); or
2. Must be enrolled in a Limited English Proficiency Program; or
3. Must be enrolled in the fall semester of the senior year.

The district requires that all students who appeal from relief of the ISAT proficiency requirements must successfully complete an alternative program equivalent to the ISAT requirement approved by the Board of Trustees in order to graduate.

The District program that students must use to demonstrate that they possess the skills and knowledge necessary to graduate from Homedale High School is as follows:

1. Successfully complete performance measures that are equivalent to the sub skills areas measured in the ISAT; and/or
2. Successfully complete multiple factors that evaluate academic proficiency and performance of an individual child. These factors should include:
 - a. Grade point average;
 - b. Assessment scores including ISAT reading, ISAT math, ISAT language arts, Directing Writing Assessment and/or literacy assessment;
 - c. Performance assessment measures, as appropriate, or other performance entries included in a student's portfolio;
 - d. Other professional/institutional evaluations, including end-of-course assessments, senior projects, community service, work experience, attendance and work ethics documented at school site.

The District alternative programs are aligned to state content standards and are based on academic proficiency and performance.

Waiver of Requirement

Graduation requirements generally will not be waived under any circumstances. However, in rare and extenuating 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, 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 Homedale High School and all acceptable transfer credits shall be recorded on the transcript. All high school students who desire to retake a course can do so and if a higher grade is earned, that the higher grade replace the previous grade. The replaced grade will not be used in the calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA). Credit shall be awarded only once regardless of repetition of the course.

Those students who will graduate in 2016 and have not received a proficient or advanced score on the ISAT in grade nine (9) will be required to complete an alternative plan for graduation, as designed by the District, including all elements required by state law and administrative rules. The student may enter the alternative path prior to his or her senior year.

Early Graduation

A student who complete 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 9-12 may petition the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees for early graduation by submitting such a petition to the Superintendent through the building principal. The Superintendent shall submit the petition to the Board of Trustees 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 2435 Advanced Opportunities.

Participation in graduation ceremonies is a privilege extended to students. Students may be denied the right to participate.

Cross Reference: Policy 2435 Advanced Opportunities
 Policy 2710 Alternative Measure to the ISAT

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-1620, *et seq.* Mastery Advancement Pilot Program
 IDAPA 08.02.01.350 Early Graduation

IDAPA 08.02.03.105
IDAPA 08.02.03.107

High School Graduation Requirements
Middle Level Credit System

Procedure History:

Adopted on: 1/9/06

Revised on: 8/13/07

6/14/10

5/9/11

10/10/12

7/14/14

12/14/15

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Prior Board Policy: 7.25