

All students graduating from Preston Joint School District No. 201 will meet all state and district graduation requirements. High schools in this district will offer a wide variety of courses to satisfy state and local graduation requirements, including instructional offerings in physical education and Career Technical Education (CTE). Additionally, each student's parent-approved career pathway plan will be reviewed and updated annually with the student (*see Policy No. 608, Middle/Junior High School Required Instruction*).

STATE STANDARDS FOR GRADUATION

The Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE) has established that all students graduating from an Idaho public high school must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. **Local Content Standards.** A student must meet locally established subject area achievement standards as demonstrated through various measures of accountability including examinations or other measures. The local standards must meet or exceed the standards set by the state.
2. **Course Credit and Core Instruction.** A student must successfully complete a minimum of forty-six (46) credits, which must include twenty-nine (29) credits in core subjects as set forth below and in IDAPA 08.02.03.105. One (1) credit equals sixty (60) hours of instruction unless the district has been granted a waiver by the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE). Waiver requests must be submitted in writing to the SDE, be signed by the superintendent and board chair, and provide information and documentation that substantiates the district's reason for not requiring sixty (60) hours of total instruction per credit.
 - a. **Secondary Language Arts and Communication**—nine (9) credits required.
 - 1) Eight (8) credits of language arts consisting of language study, composition, and literature aligned to the Idaho Content Standards for the appropriate grade level.
 - 2) 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.
 - b. **Mathematics**—six (6) credits required. Secondary mathematics includes Integrated Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Business Mathematics, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Fundamentals of Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, and courses in mathematical problem solving and quantitative reasoning, including mathematics taken through career technical education programs. Dual credit engineering and computer science courses aligned to the state standards for grades 9-12, including AP computer science and dual credit computer science courses may also be counted as a mathematics credit. Students who choose to take

computer science and dual credit engineering courses may not concurrently count such courses as both a mathematics and science credit for the same course. Students must complete secondary mathematics in the following areas:

- 1) Two (2) credits of Algebra I, Algebra I level equivalent Integrated Mathematics or courses that meet the Idaho High School Algebra Content Standards.
 - 2) Two (2) credits of Geometry, Geometry level equivalent Integrated Mathematics, or courses that meet the Idaho High School Geometry Content Standards.
 - 3) Two (2) credits of mathematics of the student's choice. This will be taken the students junior year and will be the next step in their math progression.
- c. Science—six (6) credits required, two (2) of which must be laboratory based. Secondary sciences include instruction in applied sciences, earth and space sciences, physical sciences, life sciences, and computer science.
- 1) Secondary sciences include instruction in the following areas: biology, computer science, physical science or chemistry, and earth, space, environment, or approved applied science.
 - 2) Dual credit engineering and computer science courses aligned to the state standards for grades 9-12, including AP computer science, dual credit computer science, may be used as a mathematics credit. Such courses may not concurrently count as both a math and science credit for the same course.
- d. Social Studies—five (5) credits (semesters) required.
- 1) Two (2) credits in government.
 - 2) Two (2) credits in U.S. history.
 - 3) One (1) credit in economics.
 - 4) Courses such as geography, sociology, psychology, and world history may be offered as electives, but will not be counted as a social studies requirement.
- e. Humanities—two (2) credits required.
- 1) Humanities courses include instruction in visual arts, music, theatre, dance, or world language aligned to the Idaho Content Standards for those subjects.

- 2) Courses such as literature, history, philosophy, architecture, or comparative world religions may satisfy the humanities standards if the course is approved by the Idaho Interdisciplinary Humanities Content Standards.
- f. Health/Wellness—one (1) credit required.
- 1) The course must be aligned to the Idaho Health Content Standards.
 - 2) Each student must receive a minimum of one (1) class period on psychomotor cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training as outlined in American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines for CPR including the proper utilization of an automatic external defibrillator (AED) as part of the Health/Wellness course.
- g. Physical Education—no credit requirement.
- 1) Students who participate in one (1) season in any sport recognized by the Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSAA) or club sport recognized by the district or eighteen (18) weeks of a sport recognized by the district may choose to substitute participation up to one (1) credit of physical education. Students must show mastery of the content standards for physical education in a format provided by the district.
3. **Mastery**. Notwithstanding the credit definition set forth in section 2 above, a student may achieve credits by demonstrating mastery of a subject's content standards as defined and approved by the board. The board will appoint a committee to develop a process whereby students may be awarded credit upon demonstrating mastery of a subject's content standards.
 4. **Senior Project**. The senior project is a culminating project to show a student's ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information and communicate that knowledge and understanding. A student must complete a senior project that includes a written report and oral presentation by the end of the student's 12th grade year. Senior projects may be multi-year projects, group or individual projects, or approved, pre-internship or school to work internship programs, at the discretion of the district. The project must include elements of research, development of a thesis using experiential learning or integrated project based learning experiences and presentation of the project outcome. The district may impose additional requirements at its discretion. Completion of a postsecondary certificate or degree at the time of high school graduation or an approved pre-internship or internship program may be used to meet this requirement.
 5. **Civics and Government Proficiency**. All secondary students must show they have met the state civics and government standards for such instruction through the successful completion of the civics test. The district may establish an alternate path for determining if a student has met the state civics and government content standards. Alternate paths are open to all students in grades 7-12. Any student who has been determined proficient

in the state civics and government content standards either through the completion of the civics test or an alternate path will have it noted on the student's high school transcript. A student may take the civics test, in whole or in part, any time after enrolling in the 7th grade and may repeat the test as often as necessary to pass the test. "Civics test" means the one hundred (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, in order that the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and the principles and form of United States government, as required by 8 U.S.C. §1423.

6. **Middle School Courses.** See Policy No. 609.50, Awarding High School Credit for Courses Taken Before Ninth Grade.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Students who are eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act may, with the assistance of the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team, meet graduation requirements in accordance with this policy, the student's IEP, and specifications within the current Idaho Special Education Manual.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

A foreign exchange student may be eligible for graduation by completing a comparable program to the requirements set forth above, as approved by the district.

DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

History – 1 credit Freshman year
Introductory CTE course – 1 credit
Senior Project – 1 credit

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As a further condition of graduation and as a condition of issuance of a diploma or certificate or as a condition for issuance of a transcript, all indebtedness incurred by a person when he or she was a student must be paid. Furthermore, all books or other instructional material, uniforms, athletic equipment, advances on loans, or other personal property of the school district borrowed by the person when he or she was a student of the district must be returned. The payment of fees may be excused upon an adequate showing of financial need or other exigency.

CREDIT CALCULATION

Credits toward graduation requirements cannot be counted more than once for meeting the minimum requirements.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Sections

33-119 – Accreditation of Secondary Schools – Standards for Elementary Schools

33-512C – Encouragement of Gifted Students

33-603 – Payment of Fees or Returning of Property

33-1601 *et seq.* – Courses of Instruction

IDAPA 08.02.03.104 – Other Required Instruction

IDAPA 08.02.03.105 – High School Graduation Requirements

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**Language in text set forth in italics is optional.*