

# Browning Public Schools

## Policy # 4500

Policy Name: *Graduation*

Regulation: -----

Graduation Requirements shall reflect high expectations and appropriate standards. Students graduating from Browning Public Schools will enter society as adults who are prepared to participate actively and knowledgeably as citizens in their community, tribe, state and federal government. Students will graduate with prerequisite skills that allow successful entry into and completion of post-secondary education or vocational training opportunities.

No student will be permitted to graduate from Browning High School unless he/she has completed the course requirements prescribed by District #9 Board of Trustees and meets the prescribed course of study for the State of Montana. All graduation requirements must be completed 48 hours prior to the graduation day and certified by the high school principal in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. Effective with the graduating class of 2005, 23 credits will be required to graduate. Effective with the graduating class of 2016, all students will enter Browning High School on a “Distinguished Diploma” track; students must opt out, with signed parent consent, in order to graduate according to the “Foundational Diploma” track requirements. You must contact the school principal if you wish to opt out of the Distinguished Diploma.

### Course requirements for graduation from Browning High School:

#### Foundational Diploma

	<i>Effective Beginning with Class of 2016</i>
English	4
Mathematics	2
Science	2
Social Studies	3.5
World Geography (.5)	
Blackfeet Studies (.5)	
(Does not include Blackfeet Language, Song, Dance)	
World History (.5)	
American History (1)	
Government (1)	
Tribal	
State	
U.S.	
Physical Education 2 Semesters	1
Health Enhancement	(.5)
Fine Arts	1
Vocational Practical Arts	1
Computer Technology	(.5)
Electives	5 (minimum)
<b>Total Required for Graduation</b>	<b>20.5</b>

**Distinguished Diploma**

*Effective Beginning  
with Class of 2018*

English	4
Mathematics	4 Once they have completed Algebra II student would have the option to take a 4 credit in science or computer science.
Science	<sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> Dependent on 4 credit of math
Social Studies	3.5
World Geography	(.5)
Blackfeet Studies	(.5)
(Does not include Blackfeet Language, Song, Dance)	
World History	(.5)
American History	1
Government	1
Tribal	
State	
U.S.	
Physical Education 2 Semesters	1
Health Enhancement	(.5)
Fine Arts	1
Vocational Practical Arts	1
Computer Technology	1
College Prep Electives*	2
Other Electives	3
<b>Total Required for Graduation</b>	<b>24</b>

\*College Prep Electives can include world language, computer science, music, fine arts, career and technical education, dual-enrollment courses

**Total Required for Graduation**

In addition, beginning with the graduating class of 2003 shall be required to satisfactorily engage in a public Senior Portfolio presentation and provide documentation of 20 hours of community service.

**Waiver of Requirements/Academic Variance**

The principal will establish an academic variance committee comprised of staff representing both the traditional high school and alternative education program to review all petitions for waiver. This petition will include a detailed request documenting extenuating circumstances that warrant the waiver. It will also include an information packet regarding the student’s school history and performance as documented by a transcript, graduation plan, detailed attendance and enrollment history. This information packet will also include a projected course plan for the remainder of the student’s high school career and a transition plan for the first year beyond high school.

At minimum, all students will have met the basic graduation requirements as specified in A.R.M. 10.55.905. Under special circumstances, the Principal may recommend modification to local graduation requirements to the District Superintendent. The Superintendent will have the authority to approve or deny the

recommendation. In accordance with A.R.M. 10.55.906 (3), the Superintendent will then make the recommendation to the local board of trustees to accept the waiver.

### **Diplomas**

- a. All graduating students shall receive diplomas.
- b. Diplomas may be earned through completing either required credits or criteria identified in an approved IEP.
- c. Diplomas may be received prior to four (4) years of high school attendance in accordance with District #9 Early Graduation Policy which requires the expressed recommendation of the Superintendent and permission of the Board of Trustees.
- d. The high school principal shall approve of independent study alternative curriculum offerings prior to credit being applied to the core graduation requirements.

### **Transfer Student Graduation Requirements**

Transfer students must meet the prescribed course of study for the State of Montana and Browning School District #9 in order to graduate. Transfer credits must be congruent with BHS core class requirements as determined by the high school principal.

### **Graduation**

The graduation ceremony is an activity of the Board of Trustees to honor graduating seniors from Browning High School each year.

- a. The Superintendent of Schools shall set the date for the graduation ceremony each year.
- b. Only students who have met all credit requirements, both state and local, may be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies.
- c. The Board of Trustees may deny any student the honor of participating in graduation ceremonies for infractions of federal, state, or local laws, district policies or school rules.
- d. All graduation requirements must be completed forty-eight (48) hours prior to and approved by the high school principal before a student is allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

**Cross Reference:** #4510 Early Graduation  
Former Policy #710.4, 710.5, 710.6, 710.7

**Legal Reference:** MCA 20-5-201 Graduation Participation Denied  
MCA 20-1-301 Graduating Seniors Requirement  
A.R.M. 10.55.905  
A.R.M. 10.55.906 (3)

### **Policy History:**

Adopted on: 8/96

Revised on: 4/99, 4/26/06, 8/14/07, 1/8/08, 5/29/13, 8/3/15, 8/7/18