

Colorado Graduation Guidelines Promising Practice

District	Custer County C-1
School	
Contact Information	
Name	secondary principal
District Office Phone	719-783-2291

Title of artifact	Graduation Requirements – Custer County
Type of practice	Local graduation requirements

Brief description of artifact

Requirements for high school diploma. The document outlines units of credit and subject area requirements, credits from other institutions, and home based programs.

Brief description of the process resulting in the artifact

Custer County's local graduation requirements were adopted in 2007 and revised in recent years. In 2015, a section was added regarding the district's responsibility to meet or exceed the state guidelines. District administration involved the School Board, community stakeholders, and school staff in revision feedback (e.g., meetings, an open forum, and email communication). The addition was intended to communicate the flexibility needed by district and school administration to meet state guidelines as they change.

Types of practices in the CDE Graduation Guidelines Promising Practices collection:

1. Communications, such as announcements to school community and business community
2. Implementation process plans, such as strategic plans and timelines
3. Implementation tools connected to local graduation requirements, for instance:
 - o Testing implementation (ACT, AP, ASVAB, CMAS, IB, PARCC, SAT), such as classes and retreats, administration procedures and agreements
 - o Capstone implementation, such as instructions and samples
 - o Concurrent Enrollment implementation, such as classes and agreements
 - o Career/academic assessment implementation (e.g., ACCUPLACER, COMPASS, Work Keys), such as administration procedures and agreements
 - o Industry Certificates implementation, such as samples
4. Local graduation requirements aligned with state guidelines, such as board policies
5. Regarding students with exceptionalities
6. Other

Graduation Requirements

State and District Standards

All students must meet or exceed state and district content standards prior to becoming eligible to graduate with a regular diploma. Students who fail to meet the specified graduation requirements for a regular diploma may graduate with a certificate of completion.

The Custer County School District shall develop graduation criteria that exceeds the guidelines adopted by the state of Colorado. Students wishing to earn a diploma from Custer County High School will be required to meet the guidelines established by the Custer County School District. School district administration shall develop the guidelines necessary for meeting the state minimums.

Units of Credit and Subject area requirements needed.

Graduation requirements are based on units of credit earned in grades nine through twelve. A unit of credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course, which meets four days per week for a minimum of 50 minutes daily for at least 36 weeks or the equivalent. Successful completion means that the student earned a passing grade for the course.

A minimum of 27 units of credit shall be required for high school graduation beginning with the class of 2011. A minimum of 28 units of credit shall be required for high school graduation beginning with the class of 2018. Beginning with the graduating class of 2018, a technology education credit will be required for graduation. Students will be given a technology assessment to determine which technology course is appropriate for their level of competency.

Credit requirement in various areas shall be as follows:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
*Language Arts	4 credits
English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12	
Social Studies	3 credits
US History, World History, and Government	
*Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Physical Education / Health	1 credit
Personal Finance	1 credit

Technology	1 credit
Electives	12 credits
TOTAL	28 credits

*Students who score of “1” or in the “limited command” category on the 8th, 9th, or 10th grade State Assessment in reading, writing or math will be required to take an academic success class the next school year. They will use this class period to complete an online course in the area(s) of their deficiency. This academic success class will be in place of one of their electives.

Credit from other institutions and home based programs

All students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements. The principal shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the district. Students, who are currently enrolled in the district and wish to obtain credit from outside institutions, or through “on-line” programs, must have prior approval from the principal. District administration shall develop criteria for the approval of “on-line” courses or courses from other outside institutions.

The district shall accept the transcripts from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and district academic standards, the district shall require submission of the student’s work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, the district may administer testing to the student to verify the accuracy of the student’s transcripts. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

College courses – With the approval of a counselor and the principal, college courses may be approved for high school credit. One fifth (.20) credit shall be granted for each quarter hour of credit; three tenths (.30) for each semester hour.

Approved correspondence – Correspondence courses may be taken with the approval of the principal for make-up credit only.

Night school – Night school courses approved by a counselor and the principal may be taken for high school credit.

Volunteerism/Community Service - Custer County School District recognizes the tremendous importance of volunteerism/community service. It reflects selflessness, citizenship, and virtue, all of which are the foundational blocks for building a strong community. Community service oriented and independent study programs approved by the counselor and the principal may be taken for high school credit upon

presentation of an instructional outline and objectives to be monitored by a faculty member.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian – Students must be in attendance their junior and senior year at Custer County High School in order to qualify for valedictorian or salutatorian status. Students who have spent their junior or senior year studying abroad as an outbound foreign exchange student shall be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian status. In such instances where a new student would otherwise qualify for the status, special effort must be made to recognize the academic achievement of the student. Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined by the highest weighted GPA. In case of a tie for valedictorian, no salutatorian will be awarded.

Technology Skills – It is expected, in addition to the required technology course, that technology skills will be integrated into all elements of the curriculum and that all graduates will exhibit fundamental skills necessary to function in today's society.

CUSTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1

Adoption Date: September 11, 2007
Revised: April 10, 2012
Revised: November 9, 2012
Revised: May 14, 2013
Revised: April 14, 2015