

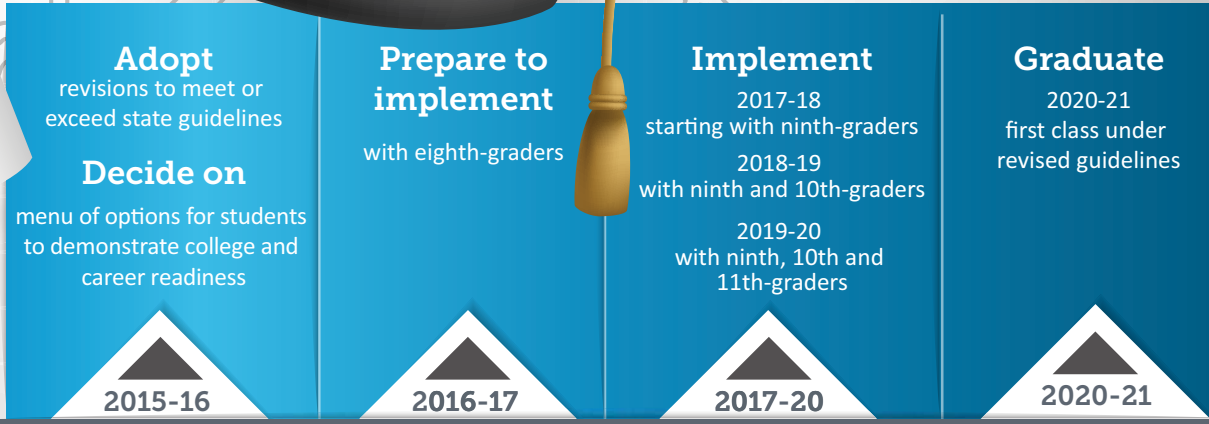
# GRADUATION GUIDELINES | FACT SHEET

## Timeline

Within three years—when the class of 2021 starts ninth-grade in fall 2017—Colorado school districts will begin implementing revised local high school graduation requirements that meet or exceed the Colorado Graduation Guidelines approved in September 2015 by the Colorado State Board of Education. This includes offering a list of options that students may use to demonstrate their readiness for college and careers in order to graduate from high school.



DETAILS 



DRAFT JULY 2016



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

[www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/graduationguidelines](http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/graduationguidelines)

### WHY COLORADO GRADUATION GUIDELINES?

Life beyond high school is different from what it used to be. Most jobs require education beyond high school. Colorado Graduation Guidelines provide a road map to help students and their families plan for success after high school. The graduation guidelines take effect with ninth-graders in fall 2017.

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## 2015-16 and 2016-17

Districts and school boards review local high school graduation requirements

### Superintendents collaborate with district administrators to:

- **REVIEW** graduation guidelines and menu of options.
- **COMPARE** local high school graduation requirements to state guidelines.
- **IDENTIFY** areas of alignment for practices and policies.

### Superintendents collaborate with their school boards to:

- **COMPARE** local high school graduation requirements to state guidelines and discuss menu of options.
- **CONSIDER** areas of alignment for practices and policies.
- **DETERMINE** district action steps and timelines.
- **ENGAGE** employers, community members, students and families in conversations that identify values and priorities for district graduation.
- **ENGAGE** community and staff members in conversations about the skills that students will need to be successful after they graduate from high school.

Local school boards adopt policies to meet or exceed state graduation guidelines and menu of options for students to demonstrate college and career readiness

### Local leaders:

- **DECIDE** on a list of options students may use to demonstrate college and career readiness in order to graduate from high school.
- **ADOPT** revisions to local high school graduation requirements to meet or exceed the Colorado graduation guidelines, including a local menu of options for students to demonstrate college and career readiness.
- **COMMUNICATE** revisions and menu of college and career-ready demonstrations to community members, students (as early as sixth-grade) and families.
- **PREPARE** to implement revised local graduation requirements starting in 2017-18 with ninth-graders.

## 2017-18

Implement starting with ninth-graders

### District Administrators

- **IMPLEMENT** revised local high school graduation requirements starting with ninth-graders, including a local menu for students to demonstrate college and career readiness.
- **CONTINUE** to communicate revisions and menu of college and career-ready demonstrations to students (as early as sixth-grade) and parents.
- **ASSESS** implementation and **ADJUST** if necessary.

## 2020-21

Graduate first class under revised graduation guidelines

### District Administrators

- **IMPLEMENT** revised local high school graduation requirements for all high school students, including menu for students to demonstrate college and career readiness.
- **GRADUATE** first class to use revised local high school graduation requirements.

## Ongoing

- **IMPLEMENT** Colorado Academic Standards, including embedded 21st century skills - for all students.
- **EMPOWER** incoming ninth-graders to develop a meaningful individual career and academic plan (ICAP).