

Graduation Requirements

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements.

District academic standards

All students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards prior to becoming eligible to graduate or complete the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), which may include modified academic standards.

Graduation from high school is a culminating event that results from the foundations built at the elementary and middle levels. Graduation is a collaborative effort among levels in a student's public school career. Each level of school and each staff member or parent/guardian who instructs or counsels a student shares responsibility for the ultimate ability of that student to demonstrate proficiency in the district's academic standards and to meet the expectations for graduation.

Units of credit needed

A total of **26** credits earned during grades nine through twelve are required for graduation. A credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course which meets five days per week for a minimum of 40 minutes daily for at least 36 weeks or the equivalent. Successful completion means that the student obtained a passing grade for the course.

The following criteria shall entitle a student to a high school diploma:

- Achievement in the district's academic standards as demonstrated by mastery of the curriculum which may include, but is not limited to, daily classroom assignments, state and district assessments, classroom assessments, and student participation in, and completion of, assigned projects.
- Completion of **26** credits in grades nine through twelve in the prescribed categories listed below.
- Completion of the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) which may include modified academic standards.

Required credits/courses

[NOTE: State law requires all students to satisfactorily complete a course on the civil government of the State of Colorado and the United States (civics). C.R.S. 22-1-104. The Board has discretion to determine how the subject areas specified in C.R.S. 22-1-104, as well as the number of required credits, will be addressed when establishing graduation requirements for civics.]

Service Learning is a requirement for graduation. Please refer to Policy IKF-R.

Telluride High School Graduation Requirements

Credits	Area
4.0	English
4.0	Mathematics
3.0	Science
3.5	Social Studies
0.5	Economics
0.5	Technology
0.5	Physical Education
0.5	Health and Fitness
1.0	Fine Arts
1.0 .25 per	Combination of additional Art, PE or sports team Ski PE at season
0.5	Junior Seminar
1.0	World Languages
<hr/> 20	Academic Credits

6.0 (or more) **Electives**

26 TOTAL REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION **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 “online” programs, must have prior approval from the principal.

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.

[NOTE: The following paragraph is optional and may be included if the district has entered into an agreement with a community college or junior college to operate a “dropout recovery program” pursuant to C.R.S. 22-35-109.5.]

Credit from a dropout recovery program

In accordance with applicable state law, college courses completed pursuant to the student’s participation in a “dropout recovery program” shall count as credit toward completion of the district’s graduation requirements. A student seeking to enroll in a dropout recovery program shall work with his or her high school principal or designee in selecting college courses.

Grading Scale

Grade Scale

A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

Weighted Scale (AP Classes)

A+	97-100	5.0
A	93-96	5.0
A-	90-92	4.7
B+	87-89	4.05
B	83-86	3.75
B-	80-82	3.45
C+	77-79	2.8
C	73-76	2.5
C-	70-72	2.2

When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average. Students entering from home-based education programs must submit student work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward class ranking or grade point average is sought.

After a course has been passed, no future grade earned in the same course shall be used to determine class rank or grade point average.

The student with the **highest GPA** will be valedictorian. When more than one student holds the numerical one rank, all students holding the rank will be declared co-valedictorians.

When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average. Students entering from home-based education programs must submit student work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward class ranking or grade point average is sought.

Independent study

Independent study, work experience and experienced-based programs approved in advance by the principal may be taken for high school credit. Students must submit a request for approval that includes a summary of the educational objectives to be achieved and monitored by a faculty member.

Student course load

The course load for freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors shall be a minimum of 7 credits for all students in grades 9th – 12th. Students who wish to take less credits in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the principal. **Students may request a study hall if they are taking a minimum of three (3) AP classes.**

Years of attendance

The Board of Education believes that most students benefit from four years of high school experience and are encouraged not to graduate early. However, in some cases, students need the challenge provided by postsecondary education or other opportunities at an earlier age. Therefore, the principal may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirements.

Service Learning

Service Learning is a requirement for graduation. Please refer to Policy IKF-R.

Revisions Adopted by the Telluride R-1 School Board: June 7, 2016

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-104 (*teaching history, culture and civil government*)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(kk) (*board to establish graduation requirements that "meet or exceed" state graduation guidelines*)
C.R.S. 22-32-132 (*discretion to award diploma to honorably discharged veterans*)
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (*home-based education law*)
C.R.S. 22-35-101 *et seq.* (*Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act*)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
AEA, Standards Based Education

IHBG, Home Schooling
IHBK*, Preparation for Postsecondary and Workforce Success
IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment
IK, Academic Achievement
IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems

NOTE 1: In May 2013, the State Board of Education adopted a comprehensive set of guidelines regarding high school graduation requirements. State law establishes a process for local boards of education to develop their own local graduation guidelines that meet or exceed these state graduation guidelines. The following are the critical dates in this process.

By the beginning of the 2014-15 school year — local school boards must adopt high school graduation requirements applicable to students enrolling in the ninth grade in the 2014-15 school year. These local graduation requirements must “meet or exceed any minimum standards or core competencies or skills identified” in the state graduation guidelines. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(II). Staff at the Colorado Department of Education inform CASB that a local board of education meets this statutory requirement for 2014-15 if: (1) the local board has adopted academic standards that meet or exceed the state’s academic standards, including standards concerning 21st century skills; and (2) the district develops an Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) for every student beginning in at least the 9th grade.

Local school boards must undertake a community-based process to develop a blueprint for the education system in the community and to determine the skills students will need to be successful after graduation. School boards shall seek input from the community at large, which may include students, parents, business persons, neighboring school districts and BOCES. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(I).

Prior to the 2017-18 school year — School boards shall use the blueprint, along with the state graduation guidelines, to establish high school graduation requirements. These local graduation requirements shall be implemented and apply to students enrolling in the ninth grade in the 2017-18 school year, but can be implemented before 2017-18 if the board wishes to do so.

Each school board shall report its blueprint and its new or revised high school graduation requirements to the public through the accreditation process as determined by the State Board. In its report, the school board shall demonstrate how its high school graduation requirements meet or exceed any minimum standards, core competencies or skills identified in the state graduation guidelines. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(II).

NOTE 2: In August 2013, the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission for Higher Education jointly approved the criteria for the postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) high school diploma endorsement. State law permits local boards of education to choose whether to require “demonstration of postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) as a graduation requirement” and also permits boards to choose to grant a PWR endorsement to each graduating high school student who meets the criteria.” C.R.S. 22-7-1016(3), -1017(1)(a). A high school student who graduates with a PWR endorsement is guaranteed admission to some state institutions of higher education and is given “priority consideration” for admission into more selective state institutions of higher education, such as the University of Colorado. C.R.S. 22-7-1017(2).