

## GRADUATION

Sheridan County School District No. 2 administration shall provide educational possibilities for all students in an effort to prepare them for future endeavors by establishing graduation requirements that are consistent with Wyoming Statute and the State Board of Education. It is the intent of the Board that this policy be interpreted and implemented consistently with statutes and regulations concerning students with disabilities.

### **General Requirements and Required Coursework:**

To earn a diploma from a District high school, students must successfully complete the following components, as evidenced by:

- passing grades;
- successful performance on competency-based equivalency examinations, where approved by the District; and
- other authorized methods permitted by law, board policy, and administrative regulation.

Coursework used to satisfy graduation requirements shall:

- reflect attainment of a minimum of 24 credits;
- be aligned to the Wyoming Content and Performance and graduation standards in grades nine (9) through twelve (12);
- reflect a logical sequence and progression of instruction;
- include in-classroom or out-of-classroom learning experiences that equip students to learn, work, contribute, and thrive in society;
- be approved by the District for credit toward graduation; and
- at a minimum, include the following:

- A. Four (4) school years of English or successful performance on competency-based equivalency examinations if approved by the District under this policy;
- B. Three (3) school years of mathematics or successful performance on competency-based equivalency examinations if approved by the District under this policy;
- C. Three (3) school years of science, one (1) year of which may be satisfied by one (1) year of a computer science course or successful performance on competency-based equivalency examinations if approved by the District under this policy;

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- D. Three (3) school years of social studies, including history, American government, and economic systems and institutions or successful performance on competency-based equivalency examinations if approved by the District under this policy;
  - a. Satisfactorily passing an examination on the principles of the Constitution of the United States and the state of Wyoming.
- E. One year of physical education and one-half year of health.
- F. Demonstration of competency of at least two of Wyoming's Graduation Standards, including:
  - a. mastery and application of foundational knowledge and skills and the ability to transfer learning in one context to a new learning in more complex or novel situations or different content areas; and
  - b. at a minimum competency in one or more of the following:
    - i. think critically and creatively to solve complex problems,
    - ii. communicate effectively to various purposes, audiences, and mediums,
    - iii. identify and use credible sources of information to build knowledge and make decisions,
    - iv. demonstrate strong interpersonal and collaboration skills,
    - v. demonstrate curiosity, self-awareness, resilience, and a growth mindset,
    - vi. practice effective work habits, including organization, time management, attention to detail, and follow through.
- G. The District shall identify the process, instructional opportunities, and performance expectations through which students may demonstrate competency of Wyoming's Graduation Standards and guidelines for which standard(s) are required for graduation.
- H. Eight semesters of coursework in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

Each high school diploma shall represent that the student successfully completed all competencies taken for graduation,

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and demonstrated proficiency in state standards for each course as measured by the District's assessment system. The district may award credit toward graduation requirements for successful performance on functional equivalents, as permitted by law, board policy, and administrative regulation.

Courses taken before grade nine (9) and used to satisfy graduation requirements shall be aligned to the state standards in grade nine (9) through twelve (12) and approved by the District.

Each High School shall maintain and publish a list of eligible coursework that may be used to satisfy the district's high school diploma requirements.

### **Curriculum Requirements:**

All courses required for graduation shall comprise an educational program that is aligned to the common core of knowledge and skills specified under W.S. 21-9-101(b) to provide students with opportunities to become equipped to compete both intellectually and economically in society.

Additionally, the District shall provide learning experiences that meaningfully incorporate the Wyoming Graduation Standards and provide students opportunities to demonstrate competency.

### **Options and Supports for Demonstrating Graduation Standards:**

The district shall provide and document options and supports available to enable students to demonstrate competency of Graduation Standards. Such options may include, as determined by the district:

- Coursework and classroom performance;
- Projects, performances, portfolios, exhibitions, or presentations;
- Work-based or community-based learning experiences;
- Career and technical education experiences;
- Assessments to demonstrations of competency;
- Dual or concurrent enrollment coursework;
- Intervention, remediation, tutoring, mentoring, or academic support services; and
- Other approved opportunities aligned to district expectations.

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Each High School Principal or designee shall ensure that students and parents/guardians are informed of available options and supports.

### **Learning Progressions and Monitoring of Student Progress Toward Graduation Standards:**

The district shall maintain learning progressions, rubrics, or other locally adopted measures to monitor and document student progress on graduation standards. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for:

- Identifying the learning progressions or rubrics used;
- Documenting student progress;
- Communicating progress to students and parents/guardians;
- Using progress information to guide instruction and support; and
- Determining when a student has satisfied applicable graduation-standard expectations.

### **Passing Grades and Credit:**

The district shall define passing grades for all coursework used to satisfy graduation requirements. A passing grade shall reflect that the student has demonstrated satisfactory performance in the required course content and, where applicable, satisfactory progress toward or performance on the Graduation Standards identified by the district.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish administrative procedures identifying:

- Grading scales or other methods used to determine passing performance;
- When credit is awarded;
- When partial credit may be awarded, if applicable;
- How transfer credits will be reviewed and applied; and
- How credit earned through approved alternative methods will be recorded on the student's transcript.

### **Competency-Based Equivalency Examinations:**

The district may permit a student to satisfy specific graduation coursework requirements through successful performance on a competency-based examination including:

- Student eligibility to attempt an examination;
- Approval procedures;
- Methods for demonstrating competency;

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- Minimum performance requirements for earning credit;
- Transcript notation and credit-awarding procedures;
- Limits, if any, on repeat attempts;
- Appeals or review procedures, if applicable.

### **Student Success Plans:**

High schools shall maintain a process for Student Success Plans consistent with law, board policy, and district practice. Student Success Plans shall support students in planning for graduation and shall address coursework and opportunities for students to meet the state performance and graduation standards and student career interests.

### **Postsecondary Coursework:**

Academic credit toward the district's high school diploma requirements shall be awarded for successful completion of qualifying post-secondary coursework as provided by law at no cost to students. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for:

- Reviewing qualifying postsecondary courses;
- Determining the application of such coursework to graduation requirements;
- Awarding credit and recording credit on transcripts; and
- Communicating approval and enrollment requirements to students and families.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

The District may make such other arrangements for students with disabilities that are consistent with the law and are in accordance with the District's rules and regulations governing programs for students with disabilities, including making provision to recognize those students who have met the requirements of their individualized educational plan but cannot receive a diploma reflecting completion of the state mandated graduation requirements. Nothing in this regulation shall be interpreted to deny a student with a disability the rights, services, or individualized planning requirement by law.

### **Early Graduation:**

Students may request graduation at the end of the seventh semester of high school if they have met the necessary requirements. Each request must be in writing and shall be reviewed in a conference with the principal, counselor, at least

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one of the student's guardians/parents, and the student. Final approval for all such requests shall be made by the principal based upon the requirements contained herein.

### **Publication and Notice:**

Each district high school will develop diploma procedures, eligible coursework, and relevant student planning information that align with this policy, including potential credit requirements and additional course requirements. Any such procedures shall be approved by the Board of Trustees annually as part of the school's student handbook.

### **Graduation/Commencement Exercises**

The high school principal and staff shall plan suitable culmination activities for those graduating from high school.

The Board chairman or other person designated by the Board shall present diplomas at graduation or shall give this honor to a member who has a son or daughter graduating.

All students who have successfully completed the requirements set by the Board and are in good standing may participate in the graduation exercises.

Any student with an IDEA Disability eligible to earn a Certificate of Completion may participate in graduation ceremonies. Students who earn a Certificate of Completion and choose to remain in school until they age out (end of the school year in which they turn 21) may participate in ceremonies only once. The year of participation in the ceremony is made with the parents/guardians and IEP Team.

The principal of the high school is authorized to withhold participation privileges in the graduation exercises and other senior activities for good cause. The principal, upon withholding the participation privileges, shall make an immediate and complete report to the Superintendent.

### References:

W. S. 21-9-101 & 102

W. S. 21-2-304

First Reading: 5-4-26

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