

Graduation Requirements

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that each student is empowered to achieve his or her dreams, Mapleton Public Schools (the “District”) has established the following graduation requirements.

Mapleton students, parents, and staff must work together to ensure graduation requirements are met. Teachers, post-secondary coaches, and administrators shall guide students and inform parents in order to ensure that students are aware of graduation requirements and their progress toward meeting these requirements.

To receive a high school diploma from Mapleton Public Schools, all students must meet or exceed the District’s academic standards. Students with disabilities shall be provided access to all graduation pathways provided by this policy and shall have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma from the District.

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 22 credits earned during high school 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, which is the equivalent of a “C-” or better. Students may also be permitted to receive course credit for demonstrating proficiency in a subject area equivalent to that shown by successful completion of the course. Proficiency may be demonstrated through receiving a “C-” or better in a college course in the same subject, or through a presentation of evidence consistent with District approved rubrics demonstrating course-level equivalent knowledge and skills. Receiving course credit based on demonstrated proficiency rather than course completion must be approved by the Superintendent (or designee).

A student may pursue coursework in one or more content areas beyond the minimum requirements, insofar as school scheduling and resources permit. Students may request to transfer credit earned through alternative means such as college coursework, correspondence courses, armed services credit, adult education, independent study, and

internships to count toward high school graduation from Mapleton. These requests will be approved on an individual basis.

In rare instances, the Superintendent may approve a waiver of a specific requirement. The waiver request will be approved or denied based on the rationale provided for such waiver.

The following criteria shall entitle a student to a high school diploma from Mapleton Public Schools:

- Achievement in academic content 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.
- Successful completion of 22 credits in grades nine through twelve in the prescribed categories listed below (District requirements) in addition to successful completion of all school-specific requirements.
- Demonstration of academic proficiency in English and math using one measure in each content from the Mapleton Public Schools Menu of College and Career-Ready Demonstrations listed in the accompanying exhibit (IKF-2-E).

The following District-wide graduation requirements must be satisfied to be eligible for graduation:

| Subject Area | Credits Required | Specific Courses Required |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| English | 4 | |
| Mathematics | 3 | All 3 credits must be earned in Algebra 1 and higher |
| Natural/Physical Science | 4 | At least 2 credits must be lab-based |
| Social Studies | 3 | At least .5 credit must be in Civics/Government and at least 1 credit must be in U.S. or World History |
| Foreign Languages | 1 | |

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|--------------------|-----|---|
| Physical Education | 1 | Must receive at least .5 credit in Health and .5 credit in Physical Education |
| Academic Electives | 5.5 | Financial Literacy – required course Must receive at least .5 credit in art and .5 credit in technology. The remaining credits may be earned in any academic area listed, or AFJROTC, foreign languages, computer science, CareerX, art, music, or drama. Also acceptable are college credits earned based on concurrent enrollment programs, or International Baccalaureate courses. |
| Capstone | .5 | Includes an independent research project, a community service experience, and an individual career and academic portfolio. |
| Total | 22 | |

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted State graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in English and Math. Mapleton Public Schools has selected its own measures from these State graduation guidelines.

Students must complete at least one English measure and one Math measure and meet or exceed the measure’s corresponding cut score or criteria to demonstrate college and career readiness in English and Math. The Board’s approved measures and cut score are outlined in this policy’s accompanying regulation.

Exceptions to the Board’s Required Measures and Cut Scores/Criteria

If a student has demonstrated college and career readiness by completing an assessment or other measure that is not included in this policy’s accompanying regulation but is included in the State graduation guidelines, the school director (or designee) may determine that such assessment or other measure is acceptable and meets the District’s graduation requirements.

School-Specific Requirements

Mapleton Public Schools offers unique learning experiences for its students and each school provides its own learning model and environment. Accordingly, each high school

requires students to complete school-specific academic experiences that reflect the focus of that specific school. This provides a unique mix of approaches of equal rigor for students to demonstrate essential skills and knowledge for life after graduation. To be eligible for graduation, all students must complete the school-specific graduation requirements in addition to the District-wide graduation requirements.

Credit from Other Institutions and Home-Based Programs

All students entering from outside the District must meet the District graduation requirements. The school director shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the District. Students who are currently enrolled in the District who wish to obtain credit from outside institutions or through online programs must have prior approval from the school director.

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 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.

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 school director (or designee) in selecting college courses.

Class Rankings and Grade Point Averages

Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class for each high school upon the basis of grade-point averages for the four-year program, excluding the last semester of the senior year.

Grades for regular classes will be given the following values: A=4, B=3, C=2.

Grades for college level classes will be given the following values: A=5, B=3.75, C=2.5, D=1.25.

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-class rank 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 District Learning Services Department 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 must be monitored by a faculty member.

Student Course Load

The course load for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors shall be a minimum of 6 credits per school year. Students who wish to take fewer credits in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the school director.

Years of Attendance

Mapleton Public Schools believes that most students benefit from experiencing four years of high school and accordingly, District high school programs are designed to take four years to complete. The District provides programs that allow students to earn college credit while in high school, and students needing more of a challenge are encouraged to take advantage of those opportunities rather than graduating early. The District recognizes, however, that in some circumstances it may be appropriate for a student to graduate early. The Superintendent may authorize early graduation for a student requesting it as long as the student has met all District graduation requirements in accordance with this policy and its accompanying exhibit.

Adopted October 22, 2013, by the Board of Education for Mapleton Public Schools.

Revised May 24, 2016.

Revised June 27, 2017.

Revised September 22, 2020.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

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 applicable to students enrolling in 9th grade beginning in the 2012-13 school year*)

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 REFERENCES:

AE: Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment

AEA: Standards Based Education

IA: Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives

IHA: Basic Instructional Program

IHAC: History and Civil Government Education

IHBG: Home Schooling

IHBK: Preparation for Postsecondary and Workforce Success

IHCDA: Concurrent Enrollment

IK: Academic Achievement

IKA: Grading/Assessment Systems

ILBA: District Program Assessments

ILBB: State Program Assessments

ILBC: Literacy and Reading Comprehension Assessments