

## Graduation Requirements

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential and are prepared for postsecondary and career opportunities, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements for students entering Trinidad High School.

To receive a high school diploma from the district, students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards and measures required by this policy. Students with disabilities must be provided access to all graduation pathways provided by this policy and must have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma from the district.

### College and career readiness

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted state graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in English (Reading, Writing, and Communicating) and Math (Mathematics). The Board 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 scores are outlined in this policy's accompanying exhibit IKF-E.

### 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 exhibit but is included in the state graduation guidelines, the principal or principal's designee may determine that such assessment or other measure is acceptable and meets the district's graduation requirements.

### Courses and units of credit required for graduation

A total of 24 credits earned during grades nine through 12 are required for graduation. A course that takes approximately a school year which 120 – 180 hours of work to complete counts as one credit, or 60 – 90 hours of work for half a credit. Successful completion means that the student obtained a passing grade for the course.

The following criteria entitles 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 24 credits in grades nine through 12 in the prescribed categories listed below.

To receive a Trinidad School District #1 high school diploma, students must meet the minimum course requirements and obtain a minimum of 24 credits with the minimum prescribed categories.

Content	Requirement
English Language Arts	4 credits
Math	3 credits
Social Studies	2 credits
Science	2 credits
Physical Education/Health	1 credit
Electives	11 credits
Demonstration of Competency	1 credit
Community Involvement Hours	5 hours/year for 20 hours total for graduation

Below are pathways that students can choose to better prepare students for their post-secondary goals.

- **Career Plus** - intended for students with goals and plans to obtain a 4-year or advanced degree

- Career Options** - intended for students with goals and plans to obtain a 2- or 4-year degree or professional certification
- **Career Now** - intended for students who have specific academic requirements and need additional guidance for their course of study; students may earn a professional certificate upon graduation

**Staff, parents/guardians, students must reference Trinidad High School Course Catalog to identify courses in each Plan of Course Study.**

<b>Career Plus Avenue Plan of Course Study</b> <i>Course choices are based on university admission requirements</i>	<b>Career Options Avenue Plan of Course Study</b> <i>Courses choices are based on university admission requirements OR PWR goals listed in student ICAP</i>	<b>Career Now Avenue Plan of Course Study</b> <i>Course choices are based on PWR goals listed in student ICAP</i>
<p><b>4 Credits English Language Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 9</li> <li>English 10</li> <li>2 English Language Arts – Choice</li> </ul> <p><b>3 Credits Math</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Algebra II <i>or</i> Trigonometry/Statistics</li> </ul> <p><b>3 Credits Social Studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History or comparable approved course</li> <li>American Gov't/Economics or comparable approved course</li> <li>Social Studies Choice</li> </ul> <p><b>3 Credits Science (2 lab-based)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical science content</li> <li>Earth science content</li> <li>Life science content</li> </ul> <p><b>1 Credit PE/Health*</b></p> <p><b>2 Credits World Language*</b></p> <p><b>7 Credits Electives**</b></p> <p><b>1 Credit Demonstration of Competency***</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment Option <i>OR</i> Capstone</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Involvement Hours</b></p> <p><i>40 hours total for graduation</i></p>	<p><b>4 Credits English Language Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 9</li> <li>English 10</li> <li>2 English Language Arts – Choice</li> </ul> <p><b>3 Credits Math</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra content</li> <li>Geometry content</li> <li>Math Choice</li> </ul> <p><b>2 Credits Social Studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History or comparable approved course</li> <li>American Gov't/Economics or comparable approved course</li> </ul> <p><b>2 Credits Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science – Choice</li> <li>- credits to include physical, earth and life sciences</li> </ul> <p><b>1 Credit PE/Health*</b></p> <p><b>11 Credits Electives**</b></p> <p><b>1 Credit Demonstration of Competency****</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment Option <i>OR</i> Capstone</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Involvement Hours</b></p> <p><i>40 hours total for graduation</i></p>	<p><b>4 Credits English Language Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 9</li> <li>3 Language Arts – Choice</li> </ul> <p><b>3 Credits Math</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Math – Choice</li> <li>- 2 credits to include algebra and geometry content</li> </ul> <p><b>2 Credits Social Studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History</li> <li>American Gov't/Economics</li> </ul> <p><b>2 Credits Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science – Choice</li> <li>- credits to include physical, earth and life sciences</li> </ul> <p><b>1 Credit PE/Health*</b></p> <p><b>11 Credits Electives**</b></p> <p><b>1 Credit Demonstration of Competency***</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment Option <i>OR</i> Capstone</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Involvement Hours</b></p> <p><i>40 hours total for graduation P</i></p> <p><i>Career Now Avenue is by team recommendation only. Specific aspects of this avenue must be approved by a school support team, parents and/or guardians, and students</i></p>
<p><b>24 Total Credits Required for Graduation</b></p>	<p><b>24 Total Credits Required for Graduation</b></p>	<p><b>24 Total Credits Required for Graduation</b></p>

**\*Waiver of Requirements:** one-half PE credit may be waived for participation in an entire season of any interscholastic sport included in the district athletic program; the designated one-half credit would then be added to the elective credits. One World Language credit may be waived based on specific university admission requirements.

**\*\*Elective Credits:** Specific credits may be necessary for college/university admission requirements; please talk to counselors. Any course taken beyond the recommended number of credits in each Plan of Course Study will count toward elective credit.

**\*\*\*Demonstration of Competency:** Please see the Menu of Options for Demonstration of Competency for specifications, explanations, and examples.

Trinidad School District #1 Board of Education reserves the right to change the requirements for graduation. In the event that the Board of Education changes graduation requirements, students and parents will be notified.

### Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

Students entering from outside the district must meet the district's course requirements. The principal or principal's designee must determine whether credit toward course requirements will be granted for courses taken outside the district.

In accordance with applicable state law, college courses completed pursuant to the student's participation in a "dropout recovery program" must count as credit toward completion of the district's credit requirements.

### **Class rankings and grade point averages**

Graduating seniors will 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, D=1.

Grades for advanced placement 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 may 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 may 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 must be a minimum of 6 credits per school year. Students who wish to take less credits in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the principal.

### **Early graduation**

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 are ready for postsecondary education or other opportunities prior to completing four years of high school. Therefore, the superintendent or designee may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirements in accordance with this policy and its accompanying exhibit IKF-E.

Adopted November 2022

Revised March 2008; June 2010; May 2011; October 2020; October 2021; November 2022

LEGAL REFS.:           C.R.S. [22-1-104](#) (*teaching history, culture, and civil government*)  
                              C.R.S. 22-1-104.7 (2)(a) (*requirement to incorporate Holocaust and Genocide studies standards into existing course required for graduation*)  
                              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