

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Trustees

Twin Falls School District 411

**From:** Bill Brulotte, Associate Superintendent

Eva Craner, Director of Public Relations

**Re:** Policy Updates

**Date:** April 9, 2018

**First Reading:**

**Administration recommended changes:**

2700 High School Graduation Requirements

2700P High School Graduation Requirements

2701 High School Graduation Requirement – Alternate Measures

All students graduating from this school district will meet this state's and this district's graduation requirements.

## **STATE STANDARDS FOR GRADUATION**

The State Board of Education has established that all students graduating from an Idaho public high school must meet the following requirements:

1. Local Achievement Standards. A student must successfully meet locally established subject area achievement standards, demonstrated through various measures of accountability, including, but not limited to, examinations. The local standards must meet or exceed the standard set by the state.
2. Course Credits and Core of Instruction. A student must successfully complete a minimum of forty-six (46) credits, one semester equaling one-half (1/2) year, and successfully complete the following specified twenty-nine (29) credits core of instruction:
  - a. Secondary Language Arts and Communications—nine (9) credits required.
    - (1) Eight (8) years of Language Arts are required, consisting of language study, composition and literature, aligned to the Idaho Content Standards for the appropriate grade level;
    - (2) One (1) credit of instruction in communications, consisting of oral communication and technological applications, that includes a course in speech, or a course in debate, or a sequence of instructional activities that meet the Idaho Speech Content Standards requirement.
  - b. Mathematics and Science—twelve (12) credits required.
    - (1) A minimum of six (6) credits in math are required. Instruction in secondary mathematics will include applied mathematics, business mathematics, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, fundamentals of calculus, probability and statistics, discrete mathematics and courses in mathematical problem solving and reasoning.
    - (2) A minimum of six (6) credits in science, with four (4) credits in laboratory sciences are required. Instruction in secondary science will include applied sciences, earth and space sciences, physical sciences, and life sciences.
  - c. Social Studies—five (5) credits required in the following subject areas:

- (1) Two (2) credits in government;
- (2) Two (2) credits in U.S. history;
- (3) One (1) credit in economics.

Courses such as geography, sociology, psychology, and world history may be offered as electives, but will not be counted as a social studies requirement.

- d. Humanities—two (2) credits required, to include instruction in visual arts, music theatre, dance, or world language aligned to the Idaho Content Standards for those subjects. Courses such as literature, history, philosophy, architecture, or comparative world religions, if the course is aligned to the Idaho Interdisciplinary Humanities Content Standards.
  - e. Health/Wellness—one (1) credit required, and will be aligned to the Idaho Health Content Standards.
3. Course Credit and CORE Instruction, effective for all students that enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2009 or later.
- a. Credit Hours—one (1) credit equals 60 hours of instruction, unless the district has been granted a waiver by the state department of education.
  - b. Secondary Language Arts and Communications—nine (9) credits required.
    - (1) Instruction in communications, including oral communication and technological applications;
    - (2) Eight (8) credits of Language Arts are required, consisting of language study, composition, and literature, aligned to the Idaho Content Standards for the appropriate grade level;
    - (3) One (1) credit of instruction in communications consisting of oral communication and technological applications that includes a course in speech, a course in debate, or a sequence of instructional activities that meet the Idaho Speech Content Standards requirements.
  - c. Mathematics—six (6) credits required.
    - (1) Two (2) credits of Algebra I or courses that meet the Idaho Algebra I Content Standards.
    - (2) Two (2) credits of Geometry or courses that meet the Idaho Geometry Content Standards.

- (3) Two (2) credits of mathematics of the student's choice.
  - (4) Two (2) credits of the required six (6) credits of mathematics must be earned in the last year of high school.
- d. Science—six (6) credits.
- (1) Instruction in biology, physical science or chemistry, and earth, space, environment or approved applied science.
  - (2) Four (4) credits must be laboratory based courses.
- e. Social Studies—five (5) credits required in the following subject areas:
- (1) Two (2) credits in government;
  - (2) Two (2) credits in U.S. history;
  - (3) One (1) credit in economics.
- Courses such as geography, sociology, psychology, and world history may be offered as electives, but will not be counted as a social studies requirement.
- f. Humanities—two (2) credits required, including instruction in visual arts, music, theatre, dance, or world language aligned to the Idaho Content Standards for those subjects. Courses such as literature, history, philosophy, architecture, or comparative world religions, if the course is approved by the Idaho Interdisciplinary Humanities Content Standards.
- g. Health/Wellness—one (1) credit required, aligned to the Idaho Health Content Standards.
4. Mastery. Students may achieve credits by demonstrating mastery of a subject's content standards as defined and approved by the district.

The board will appoint a committee to develop a process whereby students may be awarded credit upon having demonstrating mastery of a subject's content standards.

Proficiency Assessment. Starting with the class of 2022, Students must take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) during a student's 10<sup>th</sup> grade year and receive a proficient score as defined by Idaho Standards Achievement Tests Achievement Level Descriptors.

If the student does not attain the required score during their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year they will take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year and must receive the proficient score, as defined above, ~~A student must take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)~~ unless the student is exempt under the following conditions:

- a. The student has an IEP that outlines alternate requirements for graduation or adaptations are recommended on the test;
  - b. The student is considered an LEP student through a score determined on a language proficiency test and has been in an LEP program for three (3) academic years or less;
  - c. The student received a proficient or advanced score on an exit exam from another state that requires a standards-based exam for graduation. Such state exit exams must be approved by the state board of education, measure skills at the tenth grade level or above, and be in comparable subject areas to the ISAT; or
  - d. Upon appeal to the board of trustees for an alternate measure(s) to demonstrate proficiency, the student successfully met the criteria established by the board of trustees.
    - (1) Before appealing to the district for an alternate measure, the student must be: enrolled in a special education program and have an IEP, or enrolled in an LEP program for three (3) academic years or less, or **currently** enrolled in the fall semester of the senior year **or later**.
    - (2) The alternative must contain multiple measures of student achievement.
    - (3) The alternative must be aligned, at a minimum, to tenth grade state content standards for the subject matter in question.
    - (4) The alternative must be valid and reliable.
    - (5) **At least** ninety percent (90%) of the criteria of the alternative, or combination of measures, must be based on academic proficiency and performance.
5. College Entrance Examination. (Effective for all students that enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2009 or later.) A student must take one (1) of the following college entrance examinations before the end of the student's 11<sup>th</sup> grade year: ~~COMPASS~~, ACT or SAT. Scores must be included in the Learning Plan.
  6. Senior Project. (Effective for all students that enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2009 or later.) A student must complete a senior project that shall include a written report and oral presentation by the end of the student's 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.
  7. If a student completed any required high school courses with a grade of C or higher before entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and if that course is taught by a highly qualified teacher and meets the same standards that are required in high school, then the student has met the high school content area requirement for such course. However, the student must complete the required number credits of high school core subjects in addition to the courses completed in middle school, except those exempted by IDAPA 08.02.03.105.01.d.iii. This restriction shall not apply to participants in the 8 in 6 program.

## **ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

As a further condition of graduation, and as a condition of issuance of a diploma or certificate, or as a condition for issuance of a transcript, all indebtedness incurred by a person when he or she was a student must be paid. Furthermore, all books or other instructional material, uniforms, athletic equipment, advances on loans, or other personal property of the school district borrowed by the person when he or she was a student of the district must be returned. The payment of fees may be excused upon an adequate showing of financial need or other exigency.

## **CREDIT CALCULATION**

Credits toward graduation requirements cannot be counted more than once for meeting the minimum requirements.



Legal Reference:     I. C. § 33-119  
                          I. C. § 33-603  
                          I. C. § 33-1601, *et seq.*  
                          I. C. § 18-4511  
                          IDAPA 08.02.03.105

### Policy History:

**Adopted on: 12/08/08**  
**Revised on: 07/13/09**  
                  **11/09/09**  
                  **01/10/11**  
                  **08/11/14**  
                  **08/10/15**  
                  **09/12/16**

**Twin Falls H.S./Canyon Ridge H.S.**

**CORE REQUIREMENTS**

English – (4 years) 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades	
English 9/Honors English 9	2 credits
English 10/Honors English 10	2 credits
English 11/Advanced Placement English 11	2 credits
English 12/Advanced Placement English 12	2 credits
Speech (9th)	1 credit
Mathematics	
Algebra I (or meets Algebra I standards)	2 credits
Geometry (or meets Geometry standards)	2 credits
Secondary Mathematics of the student's choice	2 credits

\*(Two credits must be taken in the last year of high school in which the student intends to graduate. For the purposes of this procedure, the last year of high school shall include the summer preceding the fall start of classes. Students who have completed six (6) credits of math prior to the fall of their last year of high school, including at least two (2) semesters of an Advanced Placement or dual credit calculus or higher level course, are exempt from taking math during their last year of high school. High school math credits completed in middle school shall count for the purposes of this section.

Students who return to school during the summer or the following fall of the next year for less than a full schedule of courses due to failing to pass a course other than math are not required to retake a math course as long as they have earned six credits of high school level mathematics.)

**Science** \*6 credits  
\*(4 credits shall be laboratory sciences)

**Physical Education** (one credit must be in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>) 2 credits

\*(For students who enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade in Fall 2015 or later, each student shall receive a minimum of one (1) class period on psychomotor cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training as outlined in the American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines for CPR to include the proper utilization of an automatic external defibrillator (AED) as part of the Health/Wellness course.

Students participating in one (1) season in any sport recognized by the Idaho High School Activities Association or club sport recognized by the local school district, or 18 weeks

of a sport recognized by the local school district may choose to substitute participation up to one (1) credit of physical education.)

**Social Sciences** – (*must include: US History 10 – 2 credits, US History 11 – 2 credits, Govt. – 2 credits*) 7 credits

Students must pass the U.S. Citizenship test beginning with the class of 2017. (See further explanation on page 6.)  
History (9<sup>th</sup>), U.S. History (10<sup>th</sup>)  
U.S. History/Advanced Placement U.S. History (11<sup>th</sup>)  
American Government/Adv. Am. Government (12<sup>th</sup>)  
Psychology, and Culture Class

**Marketing Economics/Macro Economics** (12<sup>th</sup>) 1 credit  
**Health** (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>) 1 credit

**\*Humanities** 2 credits  
(Two consecutive years of world language are encouraged)

**\*Electives** –  
Must include Business Computers – 2 credits and  
Touchstones 21\*\* – 2 credits 18 credits

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION: 52 Credits**

**\*Humanities Credits**

The following courses will satisfy the two (2) humanities credits:

Humanities – 2D & 3D Design, Pottery I II & III, Digital Imaging, Studio Photography, Bella Voce, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Freshman Band, Symphony Band, Orchestra, Humanities, Advanced Humanities, Intro to Acting, Intro to Theater, Intermediate Acting, Advanced Acting, World Language, Creative Writing I & II, Stage Design.

\*Senior Project Required

\*\* Students transferring after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade may be exempt from Touchstones 21.

**ALL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET BEFORE GRADUATION.**

Website: [www.tfsd.org](http://www.tfsd.org)



1. Senior students who will complete all required credits and elective requirements have the option to request to graduate mid-term of their senior year. The student must complete an “Early Graduation Application Form” ~~no later than September of his/her senior year.~~ **and must be approved by the board.**
2. Students who complete graduation requirements and desire to graduate one year early must have board approval.
3. Students who choose the mid-term graduation option may participate in all graduation activities and will receive their diploma at the same time as regularly enrolled students.
4. If a student fails a class required by the Board of Trustees of School District No. 411 and/or the State Board of Education, the student must repeat the class successfully before credit will be granted.
5. At the beginning of a senior class student’s second semester, if he/she lacks sufficient credits to graduate with his/her class, the student and/or parent should be informed in writing. The administration should attempt to supply this notification within 30 days following the end of the first semester of the student’s senior year.
6. Students who do not meet the necessary requirements for graduation may return to their respective high school and enroll only in the classes which they need to graduate.
7. All students will be required to register for at least seven (7) credits per semester to be eligible for a diploma.
8. In hardship cases, a parent/guardian may petition the Board, through the high school principal, to allow his/her son/daughter to take less than the required number of classes during any given semester.
9. Credits received from an accredited secondary school, an accredited correspondence course institution, or accredited post-secondary institution will be accepted towards fulfillment of TFSD graduation requirements. A maximum of six (6) credits from an accredited correspondence course used to meet elective credit requirements and/or for credit retrieval may be applied towards fulfillment of the Twin Falls School District graduation requirements.

## Magic Valley H.S. Graduation Requirements

<b>Content Area</b>	
Core of Instruction	<b>29 credits (minimum)</b>
Electives	<b>17 credits (minimum)</b>
Total Credits	<b>46 credits (minimum)</b>
Language Arts <i>(English – 8 credits and Speech – 1 credit)</i>	<b>9 credits</b> (Speech credit can be obtained through other courses that meet the state speech requirement as approved by the local district.)
Mathematics	<b>6 credits</b> Including courses that meet Algebra I and Geometry standards; 2 credits must be taken in last year of high school.
Science	<b>6 credits</b> (4 laboratory sciences)
Social Studies <i>(US History, Economics and American Government)</i>	<b>5 credits</b> Students must pass the U.S. citizenship test beginning with the class of 2017.
Humanities <i>(Interdisciplinary Humanities, Fine Arts or Foreign Language)</i>	<b>2 credits</b>
Health and PE	<b>1 credit of Health</b>
Postsecondary Readiness Plan	4-Year Learning Plan at the end of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Advanced Opportunities	<b>Districts must offer at least one Advanced Opportunity such as:</b> Dual Enrollment Advanced Placement Tech Prep
Senior Project	Required to include an oral presentation and written report by the end of grade 12.
College Entrance Exam	Take either the ACT, SAT or Compass exam by the end of grade 11.
ISAT	Pass the ISAT with a score of Proficient or Advanced in Reading, Math, Language Usage and Science.
Middle School	Must take pre-algebra before entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade.

### Middle School Credit

If a middle school student completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher before entering the ninth grade, and if that course meets the same standards that are required in high school and the course is taught by a teacher certified to teach high school content who meets the federal definition of highly qualified for that course, then the student has met the high school content area requirement for such course. The student shall be given a grade for the successful completion of that course and such grade and the number of credit hours assigned to the course shall be transferred to the student's high school transcript and the student's parent or guardian shall be notified in advance when credits are going to be transcribed. However, the student's parent or guardian may elect to not have the credits and grade transferred to the student's high school transcript. The student still must complete the required number of credits in all high school core subjects identified above in addition to the courses completed in middle school, unless the student is a participant in the 8 in 6 Program.

### College Entrance Examination

A student must take one of the following college entrance or placement examinations before the end of the student's eleventh grade year: COMPASS, ACT, or SAT.

A student may elect an exemption in their eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year from the college entrance exam requirement if the student is:

1. Enrolled in a special education program and has an Individual Education Plan that specifies accommodations not allowed for a reportable score on the approved tests;
2. Enrolled in a Limited English Proficient program for three (3) academic years or less;
3. Enrolled for the first time in grade twelve (12) at an Idaho high school after the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam; or
4. Eligible to take an alternative assessment. In this case the student may instead take the ACCUPLACER placement exam during their senior year.

A student who misses the statewide administration of the college exam during the student's eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year may instead take the examination during his or her twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade year if the student:

1. Transferred to an Idaho school district during his or her eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year;
2. Was homeschooled during his or her eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year; or
3. Missed the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam for a documented medical reason.

### Senior Project

A student shall complete a senior project that includes a research paper and oral presentation by the end of grade twelve (12).

## Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT)

In addition to obtaining the necessary credits as outlined above, a student will take the Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) as defined by State Board of Education rules and, starting with the class of 2022, Students must take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) during a student's 10<sup>th</sup> grade year and receive a proficient score as defined by Idaho Standards Achievement Tests Achievement Level Descriptors.

If the student does not attain the required score during their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year they will take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year and must receive the proficient score, as defined above, unless the student is exempt under the following conditions:

- a. The student has an IEP that outlines alternate requirements for graduation or adaptations are recommended on the test;
- b. The student is considered an LEP student through a score determined on a language proficiency test and has been in an LEP program for three (3) academic years or less;
- c. The student received a proficient or advanced score on an exit exam from another state that requires a standards-based exam for graduation. Such state exit exams must be approved by the state board of education, measure skills at the tenth grade level or above, and be in comparable subject areas to the ISAT; or
- d. Upon appeal to the board of trustees for an alternate measure(s) to demonstrate proficiency, the student successfully met the criteria established by the board of trustees.
  - (1) Before appealing to the district for an alternate measure, the student must be: enrolled in a special education program and have an IEP, or enrolled in an LEP program for three (3) academic years or less, or enrolled in the fall semester of the senior year or later.
  - (2) The alternative must contain multiple measures of student achievement.
  - (3) The alternative must be aligned, at a minimum, to tenth grade state content standards for the subject matter in question.
  - (4) The alternative must be valid and reliable.
  - (5) At least ninety percent (90%) of the criteria of the alternative, or combination of measures, must be based on academic proficiency and performance.

## Civics Test

Beginning with the class of 2017, all secondary students must successfully pass the civics test or alternate path. "Civics test" as used herein means the 100 questions used by officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services as a basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization.

The District will determine the method and manner in which to administer the civics test. A student may take the civics test, in whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade 7 and may repeat the test as often as necessary to pass the test. The District will document on the student's transcript that the student has passed the civics test.

The applicability of this requirement for students who receive special education services will be governed by the student's Individualized Education Plan.

## Waiver of Requirement

Graduation requirements generally will not be waived under any circumstances. However, in rare and unique hardship circumstances, the Principal may recommend and the Superintendent may approve minor deviation from the graduation requirements.

## Alternative Programs

Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for planned learning experiences from accredited programs, such as summer school, university courses, correspondence courses, and online/virtual courses.

Credit for work experience may be offered when the work program is a part of and supervised by the school.

All classes attempted at District high schools and all acceptable transfer credits shall be recorded on the transcript. All grades earned, including failures and retakes, shall be recorded as such and utilized in the calculation of Grade Point Average and class rank. Credit shall be awarded only once regardless of repetition of the course.

## Class Rank (Grade Point Average)

Class Rank is compiled from semester grades. Courses not eligible for GPA are designated with an asterisk on the report card.

## Early Graduation

A student who completes all of the graduation requirements set forth by the District and the State Department of Education prior to the completion of eight semesters of school attendance in

grades 9-12 may petition the Superintendent and Board for early graduation by submitting such a petition to the Superintendent through the building principal. The Superintendent shall submit the petition to the Board for endorsement and approval at the end of the quarter preceding the requested graduation date.

The Superintendent is authorized to create any procedures necessary to assist students to achieve early graduation as well create incentives for participation in any early graduation program. Existing programs providing incentives to complete coursework early are described in Policy 2435 Advanced Opportunities.

The District has agreed to participate in the MAPP program, and the Superintendent is authorized to create any procedures necessary to comply with the MAPP Program.

Cross Reference: 2435	Advanced Opportunities
2710	High School Graduation Requirement - Alternative



Legal Reference: I.C. § 33 4601, <i>et seq.</i>	Advanced Opportunities
IDAPA 08.02.01.350	Early Graduation
IDAPA 08.02.03.105	High School Graduation Requirements
IDAPA 08.02.03.107	Middle Level Credit System

Procedure History:

**Adopted on: 8/11/14**  
TFSD & ISBA  
**Revised on: 3/14/16**  
**9/12/16**

Starting with the class of 2022, Students must take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) during a student's 10<sup>th</sup> grade year and receive a proficient score as defined by Idaho Standards Achievement Tests Achievement Level Descriptors.

If the student does not attain the required score during their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year they will take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year and must receive the benchmark score for their cohort, as defined above, or demonstrate growth on the test.

Students who do not attain the benchmarks listed above at least a proficient score on the ISAT prior to graduation may appeal to the board of trustees. At the board's discretion, the student may be given an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency of the achievement standards through a locally established measure(s).

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Before entering an alternate measure, students filing an appeal to use the locally established measure(s) to demonstrate proficiency, must be enrolled in:

1. Special education and have an IEP;
2. Limited English Proficient (LEP) program for three (3) academic years or less; or
3. The fall semester of the student's senior year **or later**.

### **CRITERIA FOR ALTERNATE MEASURES**

The district's alternate measures must comply with the following criteria:

1. Must contain multiple measures of student achievement;
2. Must be aligned to the tenth grade state content standards;
3. Must be aligned to the state content standards for the subject matter in question;
4. Must be valid and reliable; and
5. **At least** ninety percent (90%) of the criteria of the measures must be based on academic proficiency and performance.

### **FILING WITH THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Upon adoption by the board of trustees, the locally established alternate measures to demonstrate proficiency, and any subsequent modifications, shall be forwarded to the State Board of Education for its review. Alternate measures must be resubmitted to the Board when changes are made in the district's plan.



**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

IDAPA 08.02.03.105

Policy History:

**ADOPTED: 12/08/08**

EMT 2008

**REVISED: 8/11/14**

**8/10/15**

See Also: 2701P