

**Policy 505.05: Graduation Requirements**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 12/01/1996 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/21/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/21/2025

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the Board and Iowa Department of Education in order to graduate.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to ensure that each student completes grades one through twelve and that high school students complete the required credits prior to graduation. The following credits will be required:

**Core, Regular and Honors Diploma**

<b>Language Arts</b>	8 credits	<b>Core and Regular Diploma</b>	
		English I	2 credits
		English II or Advanced	2 credits
		English III or Advanced	2 credits
		Speech or Advanced Speech	1 credit
		Elective	1 credit
		<b>Honors Diploma</b>	
		Regular Diploma requirements including two semesters of AP English and Language Composition.	
<b>Science</b>	6 credits	<b>Core and Regular Diploma</b>	
		#Graduates through 2024	
		Integrated Science	1 credit
		Found of Physics, Physics or AP Physics	1 credit or 2 credits
		Biology or AP Biology	2 credits
		Chemistry or AP Chemistry	1 credit or 2 credits
		Science Elective, if needed	1 credit
		#Beginning with the graduating class of 2025:	
		Chemistry I	1 credit
		Physics I	1 credit
		Biology or Ap Biology	2 credits
		Earth & Env. Science	1 credit
		<b>Honors Diploma</b>	
		Regular Diploma requirements plus two additional credits to include advanced coursework.	
<b>Mathematics</b>	6 credits	<b>Core and Regular Diploma</b>	
		Elective	6 credits ( to include minimum of Algebra I)
		Algebra	2 credits
		Geometry	2 credits
		Alegbra	2 credits

Aug. 2018 requirement change: any student, at any grade level, who satisfactorily completes a high school-level unit of instruction at an accredited school has satisfactorily completed a unit of the high school graduation requirements for that area of instruction and the school district or accredited nonpublic school of enrollment shall issue high school credit for the unit to the student. These requirements are not retroactive to credits earned before that date.

**Class of 2022**

6 credits needed for math graduation requirements (must be taken during 9-12 grade).

No high school level math credits earned before 9th grade could be accepted toward the math graduation requirements.

**Class of 2023**

6 credits needed for math graduation requirement.

High school level math courses, at an accredited school, completed in 8th grade are accepted toward meeting graduation requirements.

**Class of 2024 and beyond**

6 credits needed for math graduation requirement.

High school level math courses, at an accredited school, completed before 9th grade are accepted toward meeting graduation requirements.

**Honors Diploma**

Regular Diploma requirements plus two additional credits to include advanced coursework.

**Social Studies**      7 credits      Minimum of 7 credits **and** at least one class in each group

## Core and Regular Diploma

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### **Class of 2024 and beyond**

*7 credits required	Group 1: (Geography)	World Geography AP World History	1 credit 2 credits
	Group 2: (US History)	US History or AP US History	2 credits
	Group 3: (Behavioral Sciences)	Sociology Psychology or AP Psychology	1 credit 1 credit
	Group 4: (Economics)	Economics	1 credit
	Group 5: (Civics & Government)	American Government or AP US Govt & Politics	1 credit
	Group 6: (World History)	West Civ. Age of Exploration to Today AP World History	2 credits

### **Class of 2022 and 2023**

\*7 credits required to include 1 credit US Government, 1 credit of Economics and 2 credits US History

### **Class of 2027 and beyond**

Beginning with the school year starting July 1, 2026, students must receive a passing score on the civics test as set forth by the Iowa Department of Education and required by relevant laws.

### **Honors Diploma**

Regular Diploma requirements plus 1 additional Social Studies credit to include advanced coursework.

Health	1 credit	<u>Core, Regular and Honors Diploma</u>
Financial Lit	1 credit	<u>Core, Regular and Honors Diploma</u>
Electives		<u>Core Diploma 7, Regular Diploma 17 and Honors Diploma 12</u>
Physical Education		High school students are expected to take one (1) unit of PE each year they are enrolled at DCG unless they qualify for an exemption as outlined in Board Policy 603.06.
CPR	Coursework that leads to CPR certification	<u>Core, Regular and Honors Diploma</u>
Fine Arts	1 credit	<u>Honors Diploma only</u>
*3 consecutive years of the same world language		<u>Honors Diploma only</u>

**Regular Diploma** requires Forty-Eight (48) credits for graduation. This diploma requires 17 electives to be earned in addition to the Core requirements to complete graduation requirements.

**Core Diploma** requires Thirty-Eight (38) credits for graduation. This diploma requires 7 electives to be earned in addition to the Core requirements to complete graduation requirements.

**Honors Diploma** requires Fifty-four (54) credits for graduation. This diploma requires additional coursework in each of the core areas, Fine Arts, Foreign Language and a Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher.

### **Core Diploma**

English/Lang. Arts	8 credits and viewing	Courses to include skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening
Science	6 credits	Courses to include chemical, physical, life and environmental content
Mathematics	6 credits	Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II
Social Studies	7 credits	At least one class from each identified Social Studies content standards group
Health		1 credit
Financial Literacy	1 credit	
Electives	7 credits	
Physical Education		High school students are expected to take one (1) unit of PE each year they are enrolled at DCG unless they qualify for an exemption as outlined in Board Policy 603.06.

The Board will review the required courses of study annually.

Prior to graduation, the district will advise students on how to successfully complete the free application for federal student aid.

Beginning with the class of 2022, graduation requirements for special education students will include successful completion of four years of English, three years of math, three years of social studies and three years of science.

Students who complete a regular session in the Legislative Page Program of the general assembly at the state capitol will be credited  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit of social studies.

Students enrolled in a junior officers' training corp will receive  $\frac{1}{8}$ th physical education credit for each semester the student is enrolled in the program.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop administrative and handbook guidelines that meet the graduation requirements and inform students and patrons regarding courses, requirements, and options.

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