

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure that students complete grades one through twelve and that high school students complete [200; other] credits prior to graduation. The following credits will be required:

Language Arts	40 credit hours
Science	30 credit hours
Mathematics	30 credit hours
Social Studies	30 credit hours
Physical Education	10 credit hours
Financial Literacy	5 credit hours
Total Required Hours	145 <u>110</u> credit hours
Total Elective Hours	55 <u>90</u> credit hours

Total Required Hours for Graduation 200 credit hours

~~Electives — 90 credits in 2023-2024)~~

Total Course Credits - _____ (State of NE requires 200 – 80% must be core – Rule 10)

Each student must complete at least one five-credit course in financial literacy or personal finance prior to graduation. The required courses of study will be reviewed by the board annually.

Each student shall complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to graduating unless the required opt-out form is submitted by either: (1) the parent or legal guardian; (2) the Principal, if the Principal determines good cause exists for not requiring the student to complete the FAFSA; or (3) an emancipated student or a student of at least 19 years of age.

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Each student's IEP will include a statement of the projected date of graduation at least 18 months in advance of the projected date and the criteria to be used in determining whether graduation will occur. Prior to the special education student's graduation, the IEP team shall determine whether the graduation criteria have been met.

IDEA Considerations

Graduating with a regular high school diploma or reaching the maximum age of eligibility both result in termination of a student's eligibility for Special Education (IDEA) services. Procedurally, the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

team must meet to review the student's status and issue the appropriate coding for the student, specifically 210 or 211 as described in the ADVISER Data Elements Manual, a reasonable time before the student's eligibility is terminated. These meetings may be held via the telephone or through a virtual platform (e.g. Zoom, Google, etc.) and should include the student (if possible). The school district must also provide the student with a summary of performance prior to graduation or ending services because of age. Some

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IEP teams may have already provided a Notice of Graduation or Notice of Ending Services Due to Age to certain students. As this is an issue of IDEA eligibility, the Nebraska Department of Education recommends that school districts make every effort to complete these steps in a timely manner.

Requirements Related to American Civics (Nebraska Revised Statute 79-724)

The requirements within Nebraska Revised Statute 79-724 took effect on September 1, 2019, and the NDE considers 2019-2020 a transition year for implementation. Even so, opportunities may exist in an alternate learning environment to meet requirements within 79-724.

- If a district intends to administer the civics portion of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service Naturalization Test, students are required to take the test twice - once prior to completing 8th grade and a second time prior to completing 12th grade. It may be possible for seniors to complete the second testing in an alternate learning environment. For example, the University of Nebraska High School is offering "Citizenship 101" for free (non-credit), and it prepares students to take the naturalization test at the completion.
- For districts that intend to have students attend/participate in a meeting of a public body OR complete a project/paper and class presentation as outlined in 79-724, those requirements may also be met in an alternate learning environment.