

SECTION 500 – EDUCATION SERVICES

DIPLOMA AND GRADUATION

POLICY 502

ARTICLE 1 DIPLOMA

- A. Students completing requirements as specified in this policy shall receive a Platte Canyon High School Diploma.

ARTICLE 2 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Credit Requirements

1. One credit shall be awarded for completion of a course that minimally includes 90 minutes of class time for one semester or 45 minutes for two semesters. One-half credit (.5) shall be awarded for a course that minimally includes 90 minutes of class time for one quarter or 45 minutes for one semester. Additionally, one credit or one-half credit may be awarded for individualized instruction, online instruction, summer school or college course work deemed by the Principal to be of equivalent academic value to the minimum class time requirements.
2. Credit shall be awarded when a course is completed (passed) with a grade of A, B, C or D; or for a passing (P) grade when pass-fail grading is used. No credit shall be awarded for a “F” grade. In English and math classes, a student shall be required to repeat a class to obtain a “C” or higher grade as a pre-requisite to the next level course in the required sequence. When a student earns a “D” grade in an English or math class, elective credit shall be awarded, unless the class is the final class in the student’s sequence in the subject area.
3. Credits must be completed in grades nine through twelve except that credit shall be awarded to a middle school student who, based upon his/her Advanced Learning Plan, takes an Algebra 2 or higher level math class at Platte Canyon High School.
4. To fulfill graduation credit requirements, students shall have earned 28 credits except that students graduating in May 2012, 2013 and 2014 shall have earned 26 credits. Credit must be earned in subjects as shown on the chart:

Requirements	Prior to May 2012	May 2012, 2013, 2014	May 2015 and After
Total Credits	28	26	28
English Language Arts	5	4	4
Math*	3	3	3
Science			
Physical Science	1	1	1
Biology	1	1	1
Earth Science, Chemistry* or Physics*	1	1	1
Geography	1	1	1
World History	1	1	1
American History	1	1	1
Economics	1	1	1
Civics (Government)	1	1	1
Physical Education	1	1	1
Foreign Language* or Vocational	1	-	-
Option	2	-	-
Fine or Technical Arts	8	10	12
Electives			

*Four years of math and four years of science recommended for college preparation and may be required for college entrance. Chemistry and Physics may be required for college entrance. Two years of a world language recommended for college and may be required for college entrance.

References:

C.R.S. 22-7-407 Requirement to adopt content standards, Curriculum Alignment, Assessments

C.R.S. 22-32-109 (l) (t) Board duty to determine educational program

C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 Home-based Education

Adopted: 4/11/01; Revised: 1/15/03; 4/3/06; 8/11/08; 11.08.10

B. Proficiency Requirements

1. Demonstrate reading proficiency by obtaining:
 - a. A proficient or advanced rating on the grade 10 Colorado Student Assessment Program Reading Test; or
 - b. An ACT Reading score of 18 or higher; or
 - c. A percentile rank of 40 or higher on a national standardized reading test including computerized reading assessments.
2. The high school principal shall require all students who do not demonstrate proficiency on the 10th grade Reading CSAP, to receive remedial instruction until proficiency is demonstrated on an assessment as shown above.
3. Modifications or waivers of proficiency requirements may be made by the Principal as provided in Article 4 of this policy.

ARTICLE 3 COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS

- A. Platte Canyon's program of studies is designed to provide maximum opportunity for most students to meet graduation requirements during four years of study. Students requiring more than four years may continue to work toward graduation through the school year in which they attain the age of 21. At the end of that year, they will be provided information to assist them in working toward a General Education Diploma (GED) and other opportunities.
- B. All students entering from outside the District must meet the requirements listed in Articles 1 and 2 of this policy to graduate from Platte Canyon High School unless such requirements are modified or waived as permitted by the provisions of Article 4 of this policy.
- C. Transcripts from a home-based educational program will be accepted. Submission of the student's work or other proof of academic performance for each course is required. The Principal shall determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with District requirements and District academic standards, and what additional course work must be completed to meet graduation requirements.

ARTICLE 4 MODIFICATION AND/OR WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS

- A. Students may have a specific requirement modified or waived by the Principal to prohibit a discriminatory practice, to align requirements with Individual Educational Program provisions, to remedy an unjust or unreasonable expectation, or to support a change that may result in a higher standard consistent with the student's educational goals. When possible, requirements should be modified rather than being waived. It is the intention of the Board of Education that waivers be made on a very limited basis.
- B. Students who have been denied a waiver request by the Principal and those who have reached the age of 21, but who have not completed all graduation requirements, may request a waiver of requirements from the Superintendent. If the Superintendent denies the waiver, the student may request a hearing with the Board of Education. The Board will make a final determination within ten days following the date of the hearing.

References:

C.R.S. 22-7-407 Requirement to adopt content standards, Curriculum Alignment, Assessments

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ARTICLE 5 CLASS RANK AND GRADE AVERAGES

- A. Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class through the use of cumulative numerical Averages – the average of the numerical course grade for all courses in which the student has received a grade.
- B. When a student repeats a course, both numerical grades shall be included in calculating the cumulative numerical average.
- C. Courses with “pass/fail” grades are not to be used in calculating the cumulative numerical average.
- D. Students are to be provided credit for completion of college courses under the Postsecondary Options Act

References:

C.R.S. 22-7-407 Requirement to adopt content standards, Curriculum Alignment, Assessments

C.R.S. 22-32-109 (l) (t) Board duty to determine educational program

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