

SUGAR SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT #322 POLICY

TITLE: Graduation Requirements

NUMBER: 2700

NEW: April 1989

REVISED: February 2010/April 2021

Publication of Graduation Requirements

Prior to registering in high school, each student will be provided with a copy of the current graduation requirements. Graduation requirements shall also be included in the student handbook.

Credits

Students shall be expected to earn a total of 50 credits in order to complete graduation requirements. Special education students who have successfully completed their IEP leading to completion of high school will be awarded a Diploma.

CONTENT AREA	STATE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS
Core of Instruction	29 credits
Electives	17 credits
Additional Requirements	See Descriptions
Total Credits	46 credit (minimum)

CORE SUBJECT AREAS	29 CREDITS
Language Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English – 8 Credits Speech – 1 Credit 	9 credits Speech credit can be obtained through other courses that meet the state speech requirement as approved by the local district.
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I – 2 credits Geometry – 2 credits Student Choice – 2 credits 	6 credits Two credits must be passed in the last year of high school. 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 of high level course, are exempt from taking math during their last year of high school. Students who have earned eight (8) credits of math, and have successfully completed Algebra II are exempt from taking math in their final year. AP Computer Science, Dual Credit Computer Science, and Dual Credit Engineering may be considered a math credit for students who have completed Algebra II standards.

CORE SUBJECT AREAS	29 CREDITS
Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab-based – 4 credits 	6 credits May include Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, Earth, Space, and Environment or approved applied science. AP Computer Science, Dual Credit Computer Science, and Dual Credit Engineering can be considered as either a math or science credit.
Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History – 2 credits Government – 2 credits Economics – 1 credit 	5 credits Courses such as Geography, Sociology, Psychology and World History may not count towards this requirement.
Humanities	2 credits May include visual arts, music, theatre, dance, or world language aligned to Idaho content standards for those subjects.
Health	CPR is required to be taught in Health, effective for students entering 9 th grade Fall 2015 or later
ELECTIVES	17 CREDITS

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	DESCRIPTIONS
Advanced Opportunities	Districts must offer at least one Advanced Opportunity such as Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, Technical Competency Credit, or International Baccalaureate. For more information on Advanced Opportunities, visit: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/advanced-ops/index.html
Senior Project	Senior Projects are required to include a written report and an oral presentation by the end of grade 12 with guidelines set at the district level.
College Entrance Exam	Students must take either the ACT or SAT exam before the end of the student's 11 th grade beginning with students for School Year 2014-2015. For more information on college entrance exams, visit: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/assessment/college/
Civics Test	All secondary students must demonstrate that they have met the state civics and government standard by successfully completing the civics test or alternate path. Successful completion of the requirement must be reflected on the student's transcript.
Middle School Credits	Students must take pre-algebra before entering 9 th grade. A student will have met the high school content and credit requirement for any required high school course if: The students completes such course with a c grade C or higher before entering 9 th grade; course meets the same content standards that are required for high school and course is taught by a properly certified teacher. Parents of middle school students taking a course for high school credit must be notified that the course is available for high school credit and must be given the option as to whether or not the course is transcribed.

Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT)

In addition to obtaining the necessary credits as outlined above, a student will show proficiency on the Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) as defined by State Board rules. Students who do not attain at least a proficient score on the Idaho Student Achievement Test will have the option of appealing to the Board of Trustees for relief from the ISAT proficiency requirement. Students who choose to appeal must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must be enrolled in a special education program and have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP); or
2. Must be enrolled in a Limited English Proficiency Program; or
3. Must be enrolled at Sugar Salem High School in the second trimester of their senior year.

The district requires that all students who appeal from relief of the ISAT proficiency requirements must successfully complete an alternative program equivalent to the ISAT requirement approved by the Board of Trustees in order to graduate.

The district program that students must use to demonstrate that they possess the skills and knowledge necessary to graduate from Sugar Salem High School is as follows:

- A. Successfully complete performance measures that are equivalent to the sub skills areas measured in the ISAT, and/or
- B. Successfully complete multiple factors that evaluate academic proficiency and performance of an individual child. These factors should include:
 - Grade point average;
 - Assessment scores including ISAT reading, ISAT math, ISAT language arts, Directing Writing Assessment and/or literacy assessment;
 - Performance assessment measures, as appropriate, or other performance entries included in a student's portfolio;
 - Other professional/institutional evaluations, including end-of-course assessments, senior projects, community service, work experience, attendance and work ethics documented at school site.

The district alternative programs are aligned to state content standards and are based on academic proficiency and performance.

Alternative Programs

Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for planned learning experiences from accredited programs, such as summer school, university courses, correspondence courses, online/virtual courses, and distance learning. Up to 20 credits

will be accepted in these areas.

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

All classes attempted at Sugar Salem High School 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.

Students may not take alternative school packets to earn credits for early graduation unless he/she is enrolled in an alternative school. Alternative school packets may be taken while attending Sugar-Salem High School for credit recovery purposes. Credit recovery courses shall be taken under the direction of school counselors and administration.

Online Classes

(Effective for all students that enter the ninth grade in the fall of 2012 or later.) Students shall complete two courses which comply with the Idaho State definition of an online course, worth at least one (1) credit to graduate.

1. An online course is defined as a course in which:
 - a. the student and teacher are geographically remote for a majority of the instruction,
 - b. most communication between the teacher and/or the students is done through synchronous, asynchronous or text-based interactions including email and discussion boards,
 - c. Technology with intranet/Internet based tools and resources are utilized in the delivery of instruction, research, assessment, and communication.
2. The course must:
 - a. be organized in a coherent, sequential manner
 - b. have instructional goals, objectives, strategies, and assessments that are aligned with state standards, benchmarks and expectations
 - c. be comparable in rigor, depth, and breadth to traditionally delivered courses
 - d. be taught by an instructor that is properly certificated and holds the proper endorsements for the course being taught
 - e. Be from an accredited institution.

Honor Roll and GPA/Class Rank

A student must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.6 to be placed on the honor roll.

Class Rank is compiled from trimester grades. Courses not eligible for GPA are designated on the report card. English as a Second Language, Migrant, Special Education, and Teacher's Assistant classes do not count toward GPA or honor roll.

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 their senior year may petition the State Board of Education for early graduation by submitting such a petition to the superintendent of schools through the building principal. The superintendent shall submit the petition to the Board of Trustees for Board endorsement and approval at the end of the quarter preceding the requested graduation date.

1. Attendance: To be eligible for early graduation, a student must complete at least 9 trimesters of school attendance and must have been in attendance in Sugar Salem High School prior to the beginning of his/her ninth trimester of attendance. During the student's ninth trimester of school attendance, the student must be in school for six class hours and must pass five or more subjects during his/her ninth trimester of attendance.
2. Guidelines: Students should notify the school of their interest to graduate early by the end of their seventh trimester. Approval to enter the ninth trimester program must be subsequent to a conference of parents, student, and school officials including counselor, principal, and at least one teacher in the current trimester. The conference and application should be submitted to the school prior to the last day of the eighth trimester.

Participation in Graduation Ceremonies

Participation, by any student, in graduation ceremonies is a privilege. Students may be denied the right to participate and/or attend graduation ceremonies. Only students who have reached Sugar Salem School District's 50 credit requirement will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.

Waiver of Requirement

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

Legal Reference:

IC 33-1626 Dual Credit for Early Completers

33-1626. DUAL CREDIT FOR EARLY COMPLETERS. Students completing all state high school graduation requirements, except the senior project, by no later than the start of the twelfth grade, beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, shall be eligible for up to thirty-six (36) postsecondary credits of dual credit courses during their twelfth grade year. Average daily attendance shall be counted as normal for such twelfth grade students for public school funding purposes. In addition, the state department of education shall distribute funds from the moneys appropriated for the educational support program to defray the per credit cost charged for such dual credit courses by accredited postsecondary institutions. The amount so distributed shall not exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per credit hour.