

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.

Graduation Requirements:

Missoula County Public Schools requires that students entering the District earn a minimum of 24 credits to graduate.

- 4 credits of English language arts
- 3 credits of mathematics
- 2.5 credits of social studies (includes one year of American History, one year of US Government, and one semester of social science elective)
- 2 credits of science (includes one year of earth and space and one year of biological science)
- 2 credits of health enhancement
- 1 credit of arts (music, drama or visual art)
- 1 credit of career and technical education
- 8.5 credits of elective coursework

Credits:

Except as provided in individualized education programs, students shall be expected to earn a total of 24 units in order to complete graduation requirements.

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 Board approve minor deviation from the graduation requirements.

Substitution of Requirement:

There are some circumstances where the building principal may decide to substitute a graduation requirement with a similar course in the same subject area, provided that the student still meets the 24 minimum credit requirement. For example, a science course that is different than the "earth & space" or "biological science" requirement. Any substitution should be made in collaboration with the school counselor, considering the student's graduation plan. A substitution does not require Board approval.

Alternative Programs:

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

Credits for High School Courses Taken Before 9th Grade

Only courses taken after the last day of grade 8 will count for high school credits, unless the student has been approved by the middle and high school administration to enroll in a high school course at a MCPS high school. For a middle school student wishing to take a high school course, enrollment in the course is dependent on space availability. Algebra 1 and First Year World Language courses taught at the middle school are considered middle school courses and are not eligible for high school credit.

Courses taken prior to the last day of grade 8 may not be used to fulfill graduation requirements but will be granted high school credit. For example - a student who accelerates in mathematics in 8th grade and completes an approved accelerated course at the high school will be granted high school credit for the course. However, after enrolling in the 9th grade, the student will still be required to complete a minimum of 3 credits of mathematics to complete the requirements for graduation.

For courses, taken at a high school, course grade and credit will be placed on the transcript when the student enrolls at the start of the 9th grade year. Students who are interested in pursuing high school courses before the start of 9th grade should be aware that the grade and credit for their performance in that course will be reflected on the high school transcript and will be calculated in the high school GPA.

Honor Roll:

A student must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.00 to be placed on the regular honor roll. Specific information regarding honors at graduation is included in the student handbook.

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:

All students learn and experience success given time and opportunity, but the degree to which academic content standards are met and the time it takes to reach the standards may vary from student to student. The Board of Trustees believes that all students, including advanced learners, should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential. For some learners, this can best be achieved by affording them access to advanced coursework when they have demonstrated proficiency in the prerequisite course. Students may graduate early by completing graduation requirements before their 8th semester in high school. Students who successfully complete graduation requirements within 7 or 6 semesters will be considered "early-graduates" having demonstrated proficiency through successful completion of all graduation requirements. Students who are interested in early graduation should meet with their counselor to complete a graduation plan. The trustees may establish an increase to the District's average number belonging formula as though the student had attended to the end of the school fiscal year for approval by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

No student may participate in the graduation ceremony unless that student has successfully completed all the credit requirements.