



Administrative Regulation 5127 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Responsible Office: Department of Student Accounting

PURPOSE

This Administrative Regulation establishes the requirements for earning a high school graduation diploma in the Washoe County School District (District). Through this and accompanying documents, the District seeks to put all students on the pathway toward graduation from high school, college, military, and/or highly skilled career ready. By clearly stating these requirements, students and their parents/guardians can work with school faculty and employees to reach graduation.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Cohort" is a grouping of students who began high school in the same grade level (i.e., students who enter the 9th grade at the same time).
2. "Cohort Grad Year" is the group of students who are in in a four year cohort beginning the freshman year defined by National Governor's Association definition which is marked in the District's electronic student records management system (Infinite Campus), not necessarily the year the student graduates from high school.

REGULATION

1. Standard High School Graduation Diploma (Standard Diploma)
 - a. Through the class of 2021, in order for a student to complete high school successfully and be awarded a Standard Diploma from a District high school, the student must accumulate a total of twenty-two and one-half (22 ½) credits.
 - b. Through the class of 2021, of the twenty-two and one-half (22 ½) credits, sixteen (16) credits are required credits and six and one-half (6½) are elective credits. The required courses are as follows:

English language arts, including reading, composition and writing	4 credits
Mathematics (see (d) below)	3 credits
Science	2 credits
Physical Education/ Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)	2 credits

World History/World Geography	1 credit
American History	1 credit
American Government	1 credit
Art/Humanities or Career and Technical Education (CTE) or JROTC 5-6 or higher	1 credit
Computer Literacy	½ credit
Health Education/JROTC (5 th semester course)	½ credit
TOTAL	16 Credits

- c. Beginning with the class of 2022, twenty-three (23) credits are required to graduate. Of the twenty-three (23) required credits, seventeen (17) credits are required credits and six (6) are elective credits. The required courses are as follows:

English language arts, including reading, composition and writing	4 credits
Mathematics (see (d) below)	3 credits
Science	2 credits
Physical Education/JROTC	2 credits
World History/World Geography	1 credit
American History	1 credit
American Government	1 credit
Art/Humanities or Career and Technical Education (including JROTC 5-6 or higher)	1 credit
Flex Credit consisting of one full course credit in one of the following: Mathematics (Alg 2 or higher), Science, Social Studies, or Level II or III CTE	1 credit
Computer Literacy	½ credit

Health Education/JROTC (5 th semester course)	1/2 credit
TOTAL	17 credits

- d. Mathematics. In order for a student to advance to the next mathematics course a student must pass the pre-requisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course. Algebra 2 is the only exception (i.e., if a student fails Algebra 1, either semester, he/she must re-take Algebra 1 or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If a student fails Geometry, he/she must re-take Geometry or be concurrently enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2. If a student fails Algebra 2, he/she must re-take Algebra 2 and cannot be concurrently enrolled in another math course). In cases where graduation is at risk (after failing Algebra 2), a student can be enrolled in Pre-College Math.
- i. To graduate, a student would need at a minimum:
- 1) Algebra 1 - both Semester 1 and Semester 2;
 - 2) Geometry 1 and 2 or Formal Geometry 1 and 2; and
 - 3) Any combination of Algebra 2, or Pre-College Math:
 - a. If a student has tried both Algebra 2 and Pre-College Math and failed, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may consider an exception.
 - b. If a student transfers to the District during the student's senior year and the student has not taken any or all of the courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, and/or Algebra 2, schools may apply to the Senior Director of Student Accounting for consideration of an exception from the math pathway but not three (3) credits of math for graduation.
 - c. The granting of an exception only extends to the suggested courses. The requirement of three (3) mathematics credits cannot be waived to earn a Standard Diploma.

- e. Courses providing any of the required credits listed in this regulation must meet the District or State of Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) approved for that area of study.
 - f. In addition to the twenty-two and one-half (22 ½) credits up to the graduating class of 2021 and twenty-three (23) credits beginning with the class of 2022 credits earned, students must participate in and/or pass required assessments specified by Nevada state law (Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 390).
 - i. Cohort Grad Year 2016 and after must participate in the College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. For the 2016, 2017, and 2018 and foreseeable future Cohort Grad Years, this assessment is the American College Testing (ACT) assessment with writing.
2. Alternative High School Graduation Diploma (Alternative Diploma)
- a. The Alternative Diploma is available to students with disabilities who are assessed on the Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA) exam. Nevada's requirements for the Alternative Diploma align to the academic coursework requirements for students working to achieve a Standard Diploma. High school students who pursue the Alternative Diploma must complete the required number of credits and pass standards-aligned courses. Students who achieve an Alternative Diploma will be able to remain in school through the year of their 22nd birthday and those who choose to do so will continue to receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA).
 - b. In order for a student to complete high school successfully and be awarded an Alternative Diploma from a District high school, the student must:
 - i. Participate in the NAA exam; and
 - ii. Accumulate a total of twenty-two and one-half (22 ½) credits through 2021 and twenty-three (23) credits beginning in 2022.
 - c. Through the graduating class of 2021, of the twenty-two and one-half (22 ½) credits, fifteen (15) credits are required credits and seven and one-half (7½) are elective credits. The required courses are as follows:

English language arts, including reading, composition and writing	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	2 credits
Physical Education/JROTC	2 credits
American History	1 credit
American Government	1 credit
Art/Humanities or CTE (including JROTC 5-6 or higher)	1 credit
Computer Literacy	½ credit
Health Education/JROTC (5 th course)	½ credit
TOTAL	15 credits

- d. Beginning with the graduating class of 2022, of the twenty-three (23) credits, seventeen (17) credits are required credits and six (6) are elective credits. The required courses are as follows:

English language arts, including reading, composition and writing	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	2 credits
Physical Education/JROTC	2 credits
American History	1 credit
American Government	1 credit
Art/Humanities or Career and Technical Education (including JROTC 5-6 or higher)	1 credit
Computer Literacy	½ credit

Health Education/JROTC (5 th course)	½ credit
Flex Credit in one full course credit in one of the following areas: Mathematics (no level requirement), Science, Social Studies, Level II or III CTE (including JROTC 5-6 or higher)	2 credits
TOTAL	17 credits

- e. In order for a student to advance to the next mathematics course, a student must pass the prerequisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course.
 - f. Courses providing any of the required credits listed above must meet the District or NVACS standards approved for that area of study.
 - g. Unlike students who use the Cohort Grad Year to define graduation year, students receiving the Alternative Diploma will use the actual year of graduation to determine what requirements need to be met.
 - h. In addition to the twenty-two and one-half (22 ½) credits earned through 2021 or the twenty-three (23) credits earned beginning in 2022, students must participate in the NAA exam.
 - i. Students seeking the Alternative Diploma are not required to take the ACT assessment plus writing or the Civics Exam.
 - j. The decision to seek an Alternative Diploma is determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team and indicated in the student's IEP.
 - k. Once an Alternative Diploma is earned, a student cannot earn a Standard Diploma, nor can a student earn an Alternative Diploma once a Standard Diploma has been earned.
 - l. Students who earn the Alternative Diploma can continue to attend District schools or programs through the school year of their 22nd birthday. Students who earn the Standard Diploma cannot attend District schools or programs after earning the Standard Diploma.
 - m. The Alternative Diploma begins with the graduating class of 2019.
3. Honors Program/Honors High School Graduation Diploma (Honors Diploma)

- a. The Honors Program is designed to enhance the academic preparation of the student. This program is beneficial for the student who is preparing for college entrance examinations and qualifying for admission to a college or university. Upon satisfactory completion of these special Honors Diploma requirements, the student will receive a special Honors Diploma.
- b. Honors Diploma Requirements:
 - i. Total Credits Required – twenty-four (24).
 - ii. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) – 3.4 weighted or unweighted (with no course failures during junior or senior years).
 - iii. Cohort Grad Year 2016 and after must participate in the CCR assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. For the 2016, 2017 and 2018 and foreseeable future Cohort Grad Years, this assessment is the ACT assessment with writing.
 - iv. Of the twenty-four (24) credits, twenty (20) credits are required credits and four (4) credits are elective credits. The required courses are as follows:

English language arts, including reading, composition and writing	4 credits
Mathematics (including Algebra 2)	4 credits
Science (2 credits must be in biology, chemistry or physics)	3 credits
Foreign Language (must be in same language)	2 credits
Physical Education/JROTC	2 credits
Social Studies - including World History/World Geography, U.S. History, and American Government	3 credits
Art/Humanities or CTE (including JROTC 5-6 or higher)	1 credit
Computer Literacy	½ credit

Health Education/JROTC (5 th semester course)	½ credit
TOTAL	20 credits

- c. Eight (8) credits must be earned from among those courses which are designated as Honors, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), or other courses which are designated as fulfilling this portion of the Honors Diploma requirements in the specific course description as approved by the District’s Curriculum and Instruction Department.
 - d. Courses providing any of the required credits listed above must meet the District or NVACS standards approved for that area of study.
 - e. Students may not have a grade of “F” on the transcript in the 11th or 12th grade.
4. Advanced High School Graduation Diploma (Advanced Diploma)
- a. To receive a State of Nevada Advanced Diploma evidencing graduation from high school, in addition to participating in the CCR assessment, a student must have earned a minimum of eighteen (18) credits for required courses and six (6) credits for elective courses for a total of at least twenty-four (24) credits, and have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale, weighted or unweighted, for all units of credit applicable toward graduation.
 - b. State Advanced Diploma Requirements:
 - i. Total Credits Required – twenty-four (24).
 - ii. Cohort Grad Year 2016 and after must participate in the CCR assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. For the 2016, 2017 and 2018 and for the foreseeable future Cohort Grad Years, this assessment is the ACT assessment with writing.
 - iii. Cumulative 3.25 GPA (weighted or unweighted).
 - iv. Of the twenty-four (24) credits, eighteen (18) credits are required credits and six (6) credits are elective credits. The required courses are as follows:

English language arts, including reading, composition and writing	4 credits
Mathematics (see (c) below)	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Physical Education/JROTC	2 credits
World History/World Geography	1 credit
American History	1 credit
American Government	1 credit
Art/Humanities or CTE (including JROTC 5-6 or higher)	1 credit
Computer Literacy	½ credit
Health Education/JROTC (5 th course)	½ credit
TOTAL	18 credits

- c. In order for students to advance to the next mathematics course a student must pass the pre-requisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course. Algebra 2 is the only exception (i.e., if a student fails Algebra 1 either semester they must re-take Algebra 1 or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If a student fails Geometry they must re-take Geometry or be concurrently enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2. If a student fails Algebra 2 they must re-take Algebra 2 and cannot be concurrently enrolled in another math course). In cases where graduation is at risk (after failing Algebra 2), students can be enrolled in Pre-College Math.
- i. To graduate, students would need at a minimum:
- 1) Algebra 1 both Semester 1 and Semester 2;
 - 2) Geometry 1 and 2; and
 - 3) Any combination of Algebra 2, or Pre-College Math:

- a. If a student has tried both Algebra 2 and Pre College Math and failed, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may consider an exception.
 - b. If a student transfers in to the District during his/her senior year and has not had the opportunity to take the suggested courses, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may consider an exception.
 - c. The granting of an exception only extends to the suggested courses. The requirement of three (3) mathematics credits cannot be waived to earn an Advanced Diploma.
- 4) The total of four (4) math credits must be earned to earn an Advanced Diploma.
- d. Courses providing any of the required credits listed above must meet the District's or NVACS standards approved for that area of study.
 - e. These Advanced Diploma requirements are effective with the students who enter the ninth grade during or after the 1999-2000 school year.
5. The College and Career Ready Diploma (CCR Diploma) has the following requirements:
- a. To receive a CCR Diploma evidencing graduation from high school, in addition to participating in the CCR assessment, a student must have earned a minimum of eighteen (18) credits for required courses and six (6) credits for elective courses for a total of at least twenty-four (24) credits, and have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale, weighted or unweighted, for all units of credit applicable toward graduation.
 - i. Of the twenty-four (24) credits, eighteen (18) credits are required credits and six (6) credits are elective credits. The required courses are as follows:

English language arts, including reading, composition and writing	4 credits
Mathematics (see (d) below)	4 credits

Science	3 credits
Physical Education/JROTC	2 credits
World History/World Geography	1 credit
American History	1 credit
American Government	1 credit
Art/Humanities or CTE (including JROTC 5-6 or higher)	1 credit
Computer Literacy	½ credit
Health Education/JROTC (5 th course)	½ credit
TOTAL	18 credits

- b. Of the twenty-four (24) credits outlined in 5a(i), a student must earn not less than two (2) credits in any of the following or a combination of the following:
- i. Advanced Placement courses;
 - ii. International Baccalaureate courses;
 - iii. Dual credit courses or courses completed through dual enrollment;
 - iv. Career and technical education courses (including JROTC);
 - v. Work-based learning courses;
 - vi. A world language course; or
 - vii. Demonstrate proficiency in not less than two (2) languages by:
 - 1) In a language, other than English, students must demonstrate Intermediate Mid/High proficiency in all four (4) domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. If there is a particular language that does not have an assessment that measures all four domains, students must demonstrate Intermediate High in the domains that are available.

- 2) For proficiency in English, a student must complete four (4) years (four (4) credits) of English language arts with at least a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. The GPA will be calculated after the 7th semester grade posts.
- c. Receive one or both of the following endorsements:
- i. College Ready Endorsement:
 - 1) Score of eighteen (18) on the ACT English assessment; and
 - 2) Score of twenty-two (22) on the ACT Math assessment.
 - ii. Career Ready Endorsement:
 - 1) Score of fifty (50) or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB); or
 - 2) Score of Silver or higher on the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC); or
 - 3) Be a completer of a CTE program of study and earn the Nevada Skills Certificate; or
 - 4) Obtain an industry recognized credential of the Office of Workforce Innovation, Nevada Governor's Office (OWINN) list.
- d. Mathematics. In order to advance to the next mathematics course a student must pass the pre-requisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course. Algebra 2 is the only exception (i.e., if a student fails Algebra 1 either semester they must re-take Algebra 1 or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If a student fails Geometry they must re-take Geometry or be concurrently enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2. If a student fails Algebra 2 they must re-take Algebra 2 and cannot be concurrently enrolled in another math course). In cases where graduation is at risk (after failing Algebra 2), students can be enrolled in Pre-College Math.
- i. To graduate, students would need at a minimum:
 - 1) Algebra 1 both Semester 1 and Semester 2;

- 2) Geometry 1 and 2; and
 - 3) Any combination of Algebra 2, or Pre-College Math:
 - a) If a student has tried both Algebra 2 and Pre College Math and failed, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may grant an exception if appropriate.
 - b) If a student transfers in to the District during his/her senior year and has not had the opportunity to take the suggested courses, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may make an exception.
 - c) The granting of an exception only extends to the suggested courses. The requirement of three (3) mathematics credits cannot be waived to earn a CCR Diploma.
 - 4) The total of four (4) math credits must be earned to earn an CCR Diploma.
 - e. Courses providing any of the required credits listed above must meet the District's or NVACS standards approved for that area of study.
 - f. Cohort Grad Year 2016 and after must participate in the CCR assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. For the 2019 Cohort Grad Years and for the foreseeable future, this assessment is the ACT assessment with writing.
 - g. The CCR Diploma begins with the 2019 Cohort.
6. The Adult Standard High School Graduation Diploma (Adult Diploma) is only offered to students who are enrolled in Rise Academy for Adult Achievement (Rise Academy). Students must be 17 years of age but have completed four years of high school or at least 18 years or age no matter how much high school or if any high school was attended to enroll in Rise Academy.
- a. In order for a student to complete high school successfully and be awarded an Adult Diploma from Rise Academy, the student must accumulate a total of twenty and one-half (20 ½) credits.

- b. The twenty and one-half (20 ½) credits, sixteen (13) credits are required credits and seven and one-half (7½) are elective credits. The required courses are as follows:

English language arts, including reading, composition and writing	4 credits
Mathematics (see (d) below)	3 credits
Science	2 credits
American History	1 credit
American Government	1 credit
Art/Humanities or Career and Technical Education (CTE) or JROTC 5-6 or higher	1 credit
Computer Literacy	½ credit
Health Education/JROTC (5 th semester course)	½ credit
TOTAL	13 Credits

- c. Mathematics. In order for a student to advance to the next mathematics course a student must pass the pre-requisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course. Algebra 2 is the only exception (i.e., if a student fails Algebra 1, either semester, he/she must re-take Algebra 1 or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If a student fails Geometry, he/she must re-take Geometry or be concurrently enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2. If a student fails Algebra 2, he/she must re-take Algebra 2 and cannot be concurrently enrolled in another math course). In cases where graduation is at risk (after failing Algebra 2), a student can be enrolled in Pre-College Math.

- i. To graduate, a student would need at a minimum:

- 1) Algebra 1 - both Semester 1 and Semester 2;
- 2) Geometry 1 and 2; and
- 3) Any combination of Algebra 2, or Pre-College Math:

- a. If a student has tried both Algebra 2 and Pre-College Math and failed, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may consider an exception.
 - b. If a student transfers to the District during the student's senior year and the student has not taken any or all of the courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, and/or Algebra 2, schools may apply to the Senior Director of Student Accounting for consideration of an exception from the math pathway but not three (3) credits of math for graduation.
 - c. The granting of an exception only extends to the suggested courses. The requirement of three (3) mathematics credits cannot be waived to earn an Adult Diploma.
 - d. Courses providing any of the required credits listed in this regulation must meet the District or State of Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) approved for that area of study.
 - e. In addition to the twenty and one-half (20 ½) credits earned, students must participate in and/or pass required assessments specified by Nevada state law (Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 390).
 - i. Cohort Grad Year 2016 and after must participate in the College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. For the 2016, 2017, and 2018 and foreseeable future Cohort Grad Years, this assessment is the American College Testing (ACT) assessment with writing.
7. Formula for Calculating the Weighted GPA
- a. Effective in the 2007-2008 school year, the weighted and unweighted GPA will be noted on the District's transcript. Class rank will be determined by the current unweighted or weighted system of the school as indicated in the school's course catalog and noted on the transcript accordingly.
 - b. Beginning in the school year 2010-2011, the class rank will be determined by the weighted GPA and noted on the transcript at all schools.

- c. Effective July 2007, courses designated as Honors will receive a .025 weighted value and courses designated as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate will receive a .050 weighted value. Dual credit courses are weighted as listed in the Approved List of Dual Credit Courses.
 - d. Each school may have its own policy regarding weighting grades/classes to determine certain recognition programs; however, the "value added" formula will be used to determine eligibility for Millennium Scholarship, Advanced Diploma and the Honors Diploma.
8. Standard, Honors, Advanced, or Adjusted Diploma Requirements for Students with Disabilities
- a. Students with disabilities who fulfill the following requirements may graduate from high school with a Standard, Honors, Advanced, or an Adjusted Diploma.
 - i. Standard Diploma, Honors Diploma, or Advanced Diploma - Students shall complete all of the requirements for the Standard (see paragraph 1 above), Honors (see paragraph 2 above), or Advanced (see paragraph 3 above) Diplomas. The educational needs of these students may require specially designed instruction, environment or accommodations in the format and administration of classroom, District, and State assessments. Accommodations that are appropriate shall be outlined in the student's IEP, which is developed in accordance with the State's Standards for Administration of Special Education Program, or the student's Section 504 plan.
 - ii. Adjusted Diploma - Students shall complete all of the graduation requirements outlined in their IEP. The requirements will be different from those for a Standard Diploma since the educational needs of these students require specially designed graduation requirements in addition to specially designed instruction and environment. The standards of proficiency required for an adjusted diploma and the methods of measuring that proficiency shall be outlined in the student's IEP, which is developed in accordance with the State's Standards for Administration of Special Education Programs.

9. Students returning from studying abroad:
 - a. Students who return from studying abroad who have finished all of their credit requirements while studying abroad may be issued a diploma from their zoned high school provided:
 - i. A letter is received from the school abroad that clearly states that the student did not receive a diploma from the school abroad;
 - ii. The student has met all of the requirements for a District diploma outlined in this Administrative Regulation and the foreign transcript is translated into English either by a certified translator or the foreign official transcript is in English; and
 - iii. The letter is translated into English by a certified translator prior to being presented to the school.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This Administrative Regulation reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 5025, Student Placement and Communication of Progress – Promotion, Acceleration, and Retention;
 - b. Board Policy 6600, Course of Study;
 - c. Administrative Regulation 5128, Graduation/Commencement – Participation in Ceremony; and
 - d. Administrative Regulation 5129, Diploma Seals, Certificates, and Endorsements.
2. This Administrative Regulation complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. Chapter 390, Testing of Pupils and Graduation, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 390.600, State Board required to prescribe criteria for standard high school diploma; end-of-course examinations and college and career readiness assessment; exception for certain pupils with disabilities; prohibition to issue certificate of attendance;

- ii. NAC 390.430, Units of credit and cumulative grade point average required to receive advanced diploma;
- iii. NAC 390.440, Units of credit required to receive standard diploma;
and
- iv. NAC 390.520, Adjusted diploma for pupil with disability.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
6/26/1979	1.0	Adopted
11/18/1983	2.0	Revised
8/12/1986	3.0	Revised
5/1/1990	4.0	Revised
9/22/1992	5.0	Revised
2/13/2001	6.0	Revised
4/10/2007	7.0	Revised
11/22/2016	8.0	Revised to place responsibility with Student Accounting, add the CCR and EOCs, define the math sequence necessary for graduation, and add that a student returning from studying abroad may earn a diploma under certain conditions.
11/30/2016	8.1	Revised: corrected grammatical errors; corrected error in the following: 1(g)(i), 2(b)(iv)(1), and 3(b)(iii)(1) from cohort year 2018 to 2017
12/02/2016	8.2	Revised: corrected math requirement to include exception process in 1(c)(i) and 3(c)(i)
6/21/2018	9.0	Revised: Updated information related to end of course exams; Honors and Advanced Diplomas

9/3/2019	10.0	Revised: Added CCR and Alternative Diplomas beginning with the class of 2018, the Standard Diploma that is effective with graduating class of 2022, and the Alternative Diploma beginning with the class of 2019.
09/01/21	11.0	Revised: Clarified that the flex credit has to be one full course credit in an area.