



# Administrative Regulation 5129 DIPLOMA SEALS, CERTIFICATES, AND ENDORSEMENTS

**Responsible Office:** Office of Academics

## **PURPOSE**

This Administrative Regulation establishes the list of seals, certificates, and endorsements, and the criteria to earn them, upon graduation in the Washoe County School District (District).

## **REGULATION**

1. The following Administrative Regulation does not affect District **requirements** for graduation. Seals, certificates, and endorsements represent various accomplishments that are awarded to graduating high school students, such as academic excellence, participation in programs, or proficiency in a particular field of study.
2. Available diploma seals, certificates, and endorsements are listed herein.
3. All students will receive information on the seals, certificates and endorsements available as part of the academic planning process in high school, so they are able to organize their schedules and meet the requirements to receive these honors.
4. The seal(s) will be added to the student's diploma and affixed by a school official. All seals and certificates will appear on the student's official transcript with a designation of the specific area.
5. Students have one year from the date of graduation to return to their school to have the seal(s) affixed to their diploma that were earned after graduation. Seals added after graduation will not result in a change of diploma type. The diploma type cannot be changed after graduation.
6. Seal of Biliteracy
  - a. The State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to high school graduates who:
    - i. Complete four years (four credits) of English Language Arts with at least a 2.0 grade point average (GPA), on a 4.0 scale. The GPA will be calculated after the 7<sup>th</sup> semester grade posts;
    - ii. Successfully pass all assessments required for graduation according to Nevada state law;

- iii. Demonstrate proficiency in one or more approved world language other than English.
    - 1) The following language assessments must be taken prior to the graduation date:
      - a. Pass the Avant STAMP Assessment with a score of Intermediate -mid in all domains; or
      - b. Pass the Advanced Placement (AP) world language exam with a score of three or higher; or
      - c. Pass the International Baccalaureate (IB) world language exam with a score of four or higher during their 9th-12<sup>th</sup> grade years.
    - 2) If the language is not available through any of the previously mentioned assessments, students may take Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), if available and pass with a minimum score of intermediate high.
  - iv. Schools will offer the Avant STAMP exam for students who meet the criteria, as indicated by the District Assessment Calendar.
  - b. Student scores will be loaded to the District's electronic student records management system (Infinite Campus).
  - c. Accommodations, such as those already in place for state-required assessments of language, should be permitted pursuant to the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan, and/or otherwise permitted by the Nevada Department of Education.
7. Seal of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Seal of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM)
- a. STEM. The State Seal of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics recognizes graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students can demonstrate proficiency in these subject areas by taking the courses and passing designated assessments as follows:
    - i. Earn at least a 3.25 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale or a 3.85 weighted grade point average (GPA).
    - ii. Demonstrate proficiency in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by earning:

- 1) At least four credits in science; and
  - 2) At least four credits in mathematics; and
  - 3) At least one credit in computer science, engineering, manufacturing, electronics, or a career and technical education program of study in information and media technologies or skilled and technical sciences.
- iii. Demonstrate proficiency in science through any one of the following:
- 1) Pass an Advanced Placement (AP) science exam with a score of three or higher; or
  - 2) Pass an International Baccalaureate (IB) science exam with a score of four or higher; or
  - 3) Pass the SAT Subject Test in Science with a score of 650 or higher; or
  - 4) Pass the ACT Science test with a score of 23 or higher; or
  - 5) Earn a grade of B or higher in a college-level science course completed through dual enrollment; or
  - 6) Earn a score of gold or higher on the ACT National Career Readiness Test.
- iv. Demonstrate proficiency in mathematics through any one of the following:
- 1) Pass an Advanced Placement (AP) mathematics exam with a score of three or higher; or
  - 2) Pass an International Baccalaureate (IB) mathematics exam with a score of four or higher; or
  - 3) Pass the SAT Mathematics test with a score of 530 or higher; or
  - 4) Pass the ACT Mathematics test with a score of 22 or higher; or
  - 5) Earn a grade of B or higher in a college-level mathematics course completed through dual enrollment; or

- 6) Earn a score of gold or higher on the ACT National Career Readiness Test.
- b. STEAM. The State Seal of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics recognizes graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.
- i. Students can demonstrate proficiency in these subject areas by taking the courses and passing designated assessments as follows:
    - 1) Earn at Least a 3.25 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale or a 3.85 weighted grade point average.
    - 2) Demonstrate proficiency in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics by earning:
      - a. At least three credits in science; and
      - b. At least four credits in mathematics; and
      - c. At least one credit in computer science, engineering, manufacturing, electronics, or a career and technical education program of study in information and media technologies or skilled and technical sciences; and
      - d. At least one credit in fine arts.
    - 3) Demonstrate proficiency in science through any one of the following:
      - a. Pass an Advanced Placement (AP) science exam with a score of three or higher; or
      - b. Pass an International Baccalaureate (IB) science exam with a score of 4 or higher; or
      - c. Pass the SAT Subject Test in Science with a score of 650 or higher; or
      - d. Pass the ACT Science test with a score of 23 or higher; or
      - e. Earn a grade of B or higher in a college-level science course completed through dual enrollment; or
      - f. Earn a score of gold or higher on the ACT National Career Readiness Test.

- 4) Demonstrate proficiency in mathematics through any one of the following:
  - a. Pass an Advanced Placement (AP) mathematics exam with a score of three or higher; or
  - b. Pass an International Baccalaureate (IB) mathematics exam with a score of four or higher; or
  - c. Pass the SAT Mathematics test with a score of 530 or higher; or
  - d. Pass the ACT Mathematics test with a score of 22 or higher; or
  - e. Earn a grade of B or higher in a college-level mathematics course completed through dual enrollment; or
  - f. Earn a score of gold or higher on the ACT National Career Readiness Test.

#### 8. Seal of Financial Literacy

- a. Earn at least a 3.25 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale or a 3.85 weighted grade point average (GPA).
- b. Demonstrate proficiency in financial literacy by earning:
  - i. At least three credits in a subject area in which instruction on financial literacy is provided and
  - ii. One of the following:
    - 1) Earn a score of 85% or higher on a Financial Literacy Assessment provided by the Nevada Department of Education; or
    - 2) A grade of B or higher in a college level course in which instruction on financial literacy is provided; or
    - 3) Earn a score of gold or higher on the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate.

#### 9. Seal of Civics

- a. Earn at least a 3.25 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale or a 3.85 weight grade point average (GPA).

- b. Demonstrate proficiency in civics by earning:
  - i. At least three credits in social studies; and
  - ii. A score of at least 90% on the examination for civics; and
  - iii. A satisfactory score in citizenship on the Nevada Department of Education developed rubric in four semesters in social studies courses.
- c. Completes a service-learning project.

#### 10. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certificate

- a. All students and families will receive information on the CTE Certificate prior to entering high school so that they are able to organize their schedules and meet the requirements to receive this honor.
- b. The State Career and Technical Education (CTE) certificate will be awarded to graduates who:
  - i. Maintained a 3.0 grade point average, on a 4.0 grading scale (weighted or unweighted), for all units of credit applicable to the course of study in career and technical education;
  - ii. Passed the state end-of-program technical assessment according to the established cut score as prescribed by the Nevada Department of Education; and
  - iii. Passed the state assessment for employability skills according to the established cut score.
- c. The CTE Certificate will be awarded to all students who meet the criteria and satisfy the requirements for graduation from high school.

#### 11. College-Ready and/or Career-Ready Endorsement

- a. All students, beginning with the Graduating Class of 2019, will receive information on the College-Ready or Career-Ready Endorsements, as part of the Academic Planning process prior to entering high school so that they are able to organize their schedules and meet the requirements to receive this honor.
- b. To earn either a College-Ready or Career-Ready Endorsement, the student must also qualify for a Career and College Ready Diploma.

- c. The State College-Ready endorsement will be awarded to graduates who successfully complete the college readiness assessment prescribed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada.
  - i. Students shall not receive less than the minimum scores for initial placement (non-remedial) into college-level English and mathematics courses prescribed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada. (See the Board of Regents Handbook for additional information)
    - 1) English:
      - a. Pass the ACT English test with a score of 18 or higher; or
      - b. Pass the SAT Evidence Based Reading and Writing (testing after March 2016) with a 480 or higher; or
      - c. Pass the Smarter Balanced Assessment with a 2583 (Achievement Level 3) or higher; or
      - d. Pass the PARCC with a Level 4 Score or higher; and
    - 2) Math:
      - a. Pass the ACT Mathematics test with a score of 22 or higher; or
      - b. Pass the SAT Math (testing after March 2016) with a 530 or higher; or
      - c. Pass the Smarter Balanced Assessment with a 2628 (Achievement Level 3) or higher; or
      - d. Pass the PARCC with a Level four Score or higher.
- d. The State Career-Ready endorsement will be awarded to graduates who successfully:
  - i. Pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB) with a score of 50+ or higher; or
  - ii. Pass the National Career Readiness Certificate Assessment (NCRC) with a score of Silver or higher; or
  - iii. Complete a CTE program of study and earn the Nevada Skills Certificate; or

- iv. Obtain an industry recognized credential on the [Nevada Industry Recognized Credential list provided by the Office of Workforce Innovation for the New Nevada \(OWINN\)](#).
12. On an annual basis, the Superintendent shall present the Board of Trustees with a report of the percentage of graduates who have completed various Seals, Certificates, and Endorsement.

### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

1. This Administrative Regulation reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns and complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
  - a. Board Policy 6600, Course of Study; and
  - b. Administrative Regulation 5127, High School Graduation Diploma Requirements.
2. This Administrative Regulation complies with Nevada state laws and regulations, to include:
  - a. Chapter 388, System of Public Instruction;
    - i. NRS 388.591 and NRS 388.593, State Seal of Biliteracy Program
    - ii. NRS 388.594 and 388.5945, State Seal of STEM
    - iii. NRS 388.597 and 388.5975, State Seal of STEAM
  - b. Chapter 389, Academics and Textbooks; and
    - i. NRS 389.009, Public high school to administer certain examination concerning civics; requirements for administration of examination; pupil required to take examination as condition for graduation; waiver from examination; reports.
    - ii. NAC 389.800 - 389.81, Program of Career and Technical Education
  - c. Chapter 390, Testing of Pupils and Graduation
    - i. NRS 390.605, Graduation with college and career ready high school diploma; endorsements for such diplomas; annual review of regulations establishing requirements; incentive grants and reimbursements to public high schools and school districts for pupils.



**REVIEW HISTORY**

Date	Revision	Modification
3/21/2019	1.0	Adopted: replaces AP 6648
5/31/2024	2.0	Revised: Added Seal of Civics and Seal of Financial Literacy. Cleaned up language to streamline each area.