

# Board Policy

Code No. 505.5

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Directors has the responsibility to formulate policies, consistent with the Iowa Code and standards set by the Department of Education, for students to meet to be eligible for high school graduation. The educational standards and minimum requirements set by law and the Department of Education will be strictly observed.

To receive a high school diploma from Bettendorf High School, a student in grades 9 through 12 must have earned the required credits as outlined below. Based on a 4 block schedule, two (2) credits are given for the successful completion of two terms of daily course work for each class, and one (1) credit for one term of daily course work. A student must meet the graduation requirements of his/her graduating class. For example, if a student enters as a freshman, his/her graduation requirements would be those of the class that graduates four years later, even though the student may graduate in less than four years. Early graduates must have all requirements completed to participate in graduation.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure that students complete grades one through twelve and that high school students complete 26 credits prior to graduation. Graduation requirements (credits) approved by the Board of Directors are as follows:

- |    |                          |   |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| 1. | English .....            | 4 credits   |
| 2. | Social Studies .....     | 3.5 credits (This includes the state's Financial Literacy requirements.*) |
| 3. | Science .....            | 3 credits   |
| 4. | Mathematics .....        | 3 credits   |
| 5. | Physical Education ..... | 2 credits   |
| 6. | Health .....             | 0.5 credits   |
| 7. | Electives .....          | <u>10 credits</u>   |
|    | Total                    | 26.0 credits  |

\*Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, the State requires a student complete personal financial literacy. Social Studies also includes required American History and United States Government components.

Courses in the areas of Math, English, Social Studies, and Science taken beyond the minimum graduation requirements are counted as part of the elective credits.

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the Board and Iowa Department of Education in order to graduate. Required courses of study will be reviewed by the Board annually. A student must be enrolled as a full-time student during his/her final quarter in order to be eligible for graduation from Bettendorf High School.

### Eligible Students

If a student transfers from another school that does not require as many credits as Bettendorf High School, and if the student would thereby be in jeopardy of not graduating at the regular time, individual consideration will be given by pro-rating the number of credits needed for graduation according to the amount of time the student spent at another accredited public or private school. Only course work, grades, and credits earned from

accredited public high schools, accredited private high schools, or accredited post-secondary schools (Board Policy 604.6) will be applied toward the Bettendorf High School graduation requirements. However, with prior planning and communication with the home high school, students may be eligible to receive high school credit for academic work performed at a non-accredited institution. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall determine the amount of credits to be earned or transferred. (Board Policy 501.6R1)

**Special Education Students**

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and meet the credit requirements outlined above.

Beginning with the class of 2022, graduation requirements for special education students will include successful completion of four years of English, three years of math, three years of social studies, and three years of science.

A student receiving special education services who has satisfied the credit requirements for graduation and/or has completed the educational program outlined in his/her Individualized Education Program will graduate from Bettendorf High School with the same considerations as any other graduating senior who has met all graduation requirements. This will include a regular diploma and any other recognition granted to graduating students. Beginning at least 18 months prior to the date of graduation or as required by law, all Individualized Education Programs developed for students receiving special education services shall include notification of the student's anticipated date of graduation and the requirements to be met by the student prior to graduation.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.7,11, .11A, 41; 279.8; 280.3, 14.  
281 I.A.C. 12.2, .5; 12.3(5)

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement  
603.3 Special Education

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