

# High School Graduation Reference Guide

In alignment with CCSD Regulation R-5127 as revised by the Clark County Board of School Trustees on May 12, 2016.



To receive a diploma signifying graduation from a Clark County School District high school, the student must fulfill those requirements as designated by the Nevada State Board of Education as outlined in the Nevada State Content and Performance Standards, and policy as established by the Clark County Board of School Trustees. The District, in accordance with these requirements, shall prescribe courses in the general areas of study as follows:

- Each ninth grade student must have an approved four-year academic plan. The academic plan must set forth the specific educational goals that the student intends to achieve before graduation from high school. The plan may include the designation of a career pathway and enrollment in:
  - dual credit,
  - career and technical education,
  - Advanced Placement (AP) courses,
  - International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, and
  - Honors courses
- The ninth grade student and his or her parent or legal guardian are required to work in consultation with a school counselor to develop an academic plan, review the academic plan at least once each school year in consultation with a school counselor, and revise the plan if necessary.
- For students enrolling in high school after ninth grade, an academic plan will be created with appropriate grade level modifications.
- The academic plan must be used as a guide for the student and the parent or legal guardian to plan, monitor, and manage the student's educational development and make determinations of the appropriate course of study.
- If a student does not satisfy all of the goals set forth in the academic plan, he or she is eligible to graduate and receive a high school diploma if the requirements for a diploma are otherwise satisfied.

## 21st Century Course of Study Expectations

The Clark County School District expects all students to meet the requirements of the 21st Century Course of Study. In addition to the three years of mathematics and two years of science necessary to graduate with a high school diploma, students will be scheduled into a fourth year of mathematics and a third year of science. Algebra II (or higher) must be taken as one of the required mathematics courses and Biology I or Biology IH (or higher) must be taken as one of the required science courses. All high school students who enter ninth grade during or after the 2015–2016 school year will be enrolled in the 21st Century Course of Study.

The 21st Century Course of Study Expectations provides the following for students:

- Opens doors to post-secondary education and workforce opportunities
- Meets Nevada university admission requirements when student earns 3.000 GPA
- Prepares students for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship when student earns 3.25 GPA

21st Century Course of Study			
Areas of Study	Credit(s)	Areas of Study	Credit(s)
English	4	Physical Education	2
Mathematics	4*	Health Education	½
Science	3**	21st Century Learning	½***
World History / Geography	1	Arts and Humanities or Career and Technical Education	1
U.S. History	1		
U.S. Government	1	Electives	4½
<b>Total</b>			<b>22 ½</b>

\* Approved Nevada State Higher Education Core Curriculum for Math including Algebra II or higher.

\*\* Three units of credit in Science, including two laboratory courses of which one must be at least Biology I or Biology IH, or above.

\*\*\* Satisfactory completion of a semester computer literacy course offered in Grades 6, 7, or 8 will meet the requirement for the 21st Century Learning.

A student, including students accessing special education services, may be granted an exception to the 21st Century Course of Study expectations on a limited, individual basis. All exceptions will be made in accordance with District guidelines, and will require written approval of the principal (or administrative designee) and the parent or legal guardian.

## Additional Diploma Options

### Standard Diploma

To receive a standard high school diploma, each student granted an exception to the 21st Century Course of Study must complete 22½ units of approved course work and pass or participate in the required state assessment, based on the cohort assignment.

Areas of Study	Credit(s)	Areas of Study	Credit(s)
English	4	U.S. Government	1
Mathematics	3*	Physical Education	2
Science	2	Health Education	½
World History / Geography	1**	21st Century Learning	½***
U.S. History	1	Electives	7½
<b>Total</b>			<b>22½</b>

\* Students in the 2017 Cohort and 2018 Cohort must include Algebra I or Principles of Algebra, and Geometry or Principles of Geometry. Students in the 2019 Cohort and beyond must include Algebra I or Principles of Algebra, or higher. It is strongly recommended that students in the 2019 Cohort and beyond also enroll in Geometry or Principles of Geometry to be prepared to meet the graduation requirement of passing the Math II End of Course Exam.

\*\* World History or Geography is required for all Clark County School District students. World History or Geography taken in the Clark County School District fulfills the Arts/ Humanities or Career and Technical Education state requirement.

\*\*\* Satisfactory completion of a semester computer literacy course offered in Grades 6, 7, or 8 will meet the requirement for the 21st Century Learning.

### Advanced Diploma

To receive an Advanced Diploma, each student must complete 24 units of approved course work and pass or participate in the required state assessment, based on the cohort assignment, and achieve a minimum of a 3.25 unweighted GPA.

Areas of Study	Credit(s)	Areas of Study	Credit(s)
English	4	Physical Education	2
Mathematics	4*	Health Education	½
Science	3	21st Century Learning	½**
World History / Geography	1	Arts and Humanities or Career and Technical Education	1***
U.S. History	1		
U.S. Government	1	Electives	6
<b>Total</b>			<b>24</b>

\* Students in the 2017 Cohort and 2018 Cohort must include Algebra I or Principles of Algebra, and Geometry or Principles of Geometry. Students in the 2019 Cohort and beyond must include Algebra I or Principles of Algebra, or higher. It is strongly recommended that students in the 2019 Cohort and beyond also enroll in Geometry or Principles of Geometry to be prepared to meet the graduation requirement of passing the Math II End of Course Exam.

\*\* Satisfactory completion of a semester computer literacy course offered in Grades 6, 7, or 8 will meet the requirement for the 21st Century Learning.

\*\*\* For students pursuing the Advanced Diploma, World History or Geography will satisfy either the student's third social studies credit or the student's Arts and Humanities or Career and Technical Education credit, but not both.

### Advanced Honors Diploma

To receive an Advanced Honors Diploma, each student will be required to fulfill the Advanced Diploma requirements and must complete a minimum of 12 Honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advance Placement (AP) courses or 24 semesters required of the Honors Course Program. The required area of study are listed on page 4 of this document. Each student must pass or participate in the required state assessment based on the cohort assignment, and achieve a minimum of a 3.25 unweighted GPA and a 3.85 weighted GPA.

Areas of Study	Credit(s)	Areas of Study	Credit(s)
English	4	Physical Education	2
Mathematics	4*	Health Education	½
Science	3	21st Century Learning	½**
World History / Geography	1	Arts and Humanities or Career and Technical Education	1***
U.S. History	1		
U.S. Government	1	Electives	6
<b>Total</b>			<b>24</b>

\* Students in the 2017 Cohort and 2018 Cohort must include Algebra I or Principles of Algebra, and Geometry or Principles of Geometry. Students in the 2019 Cohort and beyond must include Algebra I or Principles of Algebra, or higher. It is strongly recommended that students in the 2019 Cohort and beyond also enroll in Geometry or Principles of Geometry to be prepared to meet the graduation requirement of passing the Math II End of Course Exam.

\*\* Satisfactory completion of a semester computer literacy course offered in Grades 6, 7, or 8 will meet the requirement for the 21st Century Learning.

\*\*\* For students pursuing the Advanced Honors Diploma, World History or Geography will satisfy either the student's third social studies credit or the student's Arts and Humanities or Career and Technical Education credit, but not both.

## High School Graduation Testing Requirements

In addition to the requirements listed for each specific diploma option, the following testing requirements must be fulfilled for a student to be eligible for a diploma.

The cohort year indicates the year that a student will graduate based on the year the student enters Grade 9. If a student does not graduate within 4 years, the testing requirements for that cohort will still apply.

The "College and Career Plus Writing Assessment" currently used by the District is the American College Testing (ACT) assessment.

### Cohorts 2017 and 2018

The student must:

- Take each of the End of Course Exams and pass the aligned courses
- Participate in the College and Career Readiness Plus Writing Assessment during the junior year
  - Only if student is enrolled in a Nevada school in Grade 11 during the administration of the College and Career Readiness Assessment
  - Students enrolled after the Grade 11 College and Career Assessment administration are exempted from assessment participation
  - Students who are not exempted and do not participate must take the College and Career Readiness Plus Writing Assessment in Grade 11 or 12

### Cohort 2016

The student must:

- Pass all of the High School Proficiency Exams
- Take the American College Testing (ACT) with writing
- Participate in the College and Career Readiness Assessment
  - Only if student is enrolled in a Nevada school in Grade 11 during the administration of the College and Career Readiness Assessment
  - Students enrolled after the Grade 11 College and Career Assessment administration are exempted from assessment participation
  - Students who are not exempted and do not participate must take the College and Career Readiness Plus Writing Assessment in Grade 11 or 12

### Cohort 2019 and Beyond

The student must:

- Pass four End of Course Exams
  - Cohort 2019: ELA I, ELA II, Math I, and Math II
  - Cohort 2020 and beyond: ELA, Math I, Math II, and Science
- Participate in the College and Career Readiness Plus Writing Assessment during the junior year
  - Only if student is enrolled in a Nevada school in Grade 11 during the administration of the College and Career Readiness Assessment
  - Students enrolled after the Grade 11 College and Career Assessment administration are exempted from assessment participation
  - Students who are not exempted and do not participate must take the College and Career Readiness Plus Writing Assessment in Grade 11 or 12

## Exemptions and Other Credit Options

### Physical Education Exemptions and Waivers

Exemption from the required 2 units in physical education may be granted via an application by the student indicating a physical or mental condition with an annual written statement from a physician, or a religious exemption with an annual written statement from a parent or guardian. Any student who obtains an exemption under these statutory citations will be required to successfully complete commensurate elective course work to accumulate the credit necessary for graduation.

A waiver for Physical Education II shall be granted if a student participates in and completes an authorized school activity of 120 hours of participation. A maximum of 1 Physical Education II waiver may be applied toward graduation. Authorized school activities are:

- Interscholastic Athletics
- Drill Team
- Marching Bands
- Dance Group
- Cheerleading Squad

### Equivalent Course Work

Certain courses may qualify for equivalent course work. Administrative guidelines are found in the *Manual for Registrars and Counselors*.

### External Credit Options

In addition to opportunities to earn credits in the school classroom setting and through approved distance education programs, CCSD provides high school students with opportunities to earn 6 external credits. A student may not apply more than 6 external units toward graduation from high school, and no more than 3 units earned in English, mathematics, science, or social studies may be applied toward graduation. Administrative guidelines are found in the *Manual for Registrars and Counselors*.

External credits from the following programs are accepted when successfully completed in accordance with CCSD guidelines:

- Community service (1 credit maximum)
- Correspondence Courses
- Credit by Exam
- Dual Credit
- Education Travel Credit (1 credit maximum)
- Enrichment Program
- Music Equivalent Credit (1 credit maximum)
- Physical Education II Waiver

### Duplicated Course Work

A student may repeat a course, but will not receive additional credit for the repeated course. The higher grade will be recorded on the permanent record and the lower grade will be reported with a repeated course notation. Guidelines for repeating a course are found in the *Manual for Registrars and Counselors*.

## CCSD Honors Course Offerings

The CCSD Honors Program is designed to challenge students to enroll in more demanding and rigorous course work and to improve advanced academic achievement of students demonstrating accelerated educational potential. Courses offered include Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB).

Knowledge of content for AP and IB courses is determined by participation in the cumulative examination sponsored by the College Board and International Baccalaureate.

Required Areas of Study	Required Number of Honors/AP/IB Courses
English	3
Mathematics	2
Science	2
Foreign Language* (2nd year)	1
Social Studies	2
Optional Selected Honors/AP/IB Classes	2
* First year foreign language classes do not receive Honors credit.	

### Valedictorian(s) and Salutatorian(s)

**Valedictorian(s):** Student(s) with the highest grade point average (weighted GPA) in the graduating class.

**Salutatorian(s):** Student(s) with the second highest grade point average in the graduating cohort.

Students will be identified as candidates at the end of the fall semester of their graduating year. Final Valedictorian(s) and Salutatorian(s) will be determined based on the completion of all high school credit course work.

### Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculations

- The GPA will be calculated in the traditional manner (A=4 to F=0).
- A weighted grade point factor of .025 will be added for successful completion of a maximum of 14 courses or 28 semesters of Honors classes.
- The weighted grade point factors for AP and IB courses will be incorporated only when the student participates in a cumulative examination.
  - The exception for this requirement only exists if the course load for a student exceeds 3 courses per semester. A fourth or subsequent number of AP or IB courses taken by a student in a semester does not require the participation in the cumulative examination. Students may choose which 3 AP or IB tests to take related to that semester/year-long course.
  - Parents or guardians may waive the testing requirement related to AP and IB by contacting the school administration. This direct waiver request by a parent or guardian will result in the student receiving a weighted grade point factor of .025 for the completion of the AP and IB courses successfully completed.
- A weighted grade point factor for successful completion of Honors, AP, and IB courses will be added as follows for a maximum of 14 courses or 28 semesters:
  - Honors .025
  - Advanced Placement (AP) .050
  - International Baccalaureate .050
- A student who does not pursue the Advanced Honors Diploma may enroll in Honors courses and receive the same weighted grade point calculations.

## Graduation for Students Accessing Special Education Services

An Individual Education Program (IEP) for each student accessing special education services must be developed and reviewed annually.

The appropriate course of study leading to program completion will be determined by the IEP Team. Efforts should be made to maximize standard diploma options for students accessing special education services.

Any student accessing special education services who has not earned a standard diploma may return for educational services until his or her 22nd birthday.

### Requirements for student accessing special education services in the Class of 2014 and beyond:

- A student accessing special education services may earn a standard high school diploma by meeting the requirements of the Standard Diploma.
- A student accessing special education services may earn an adjusted high school diploma:
  - Upon completion of 22½ units in regular and/or adjusted course work.
  - The IEP Team may elect to exempt the required areas of study and prescribe an alternate curriculum to the extent that proper consideration has been given to accessing the general education curriculum.

## Adult Education

To receive an Adult Standard Diploma signifying graduation, the student must fulfill requirements designated by the Nevada State Board of Education as outlined in the Nevada Administrative Code.