

**POLICY TITLE: COSSA ACADEMY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**Publication of Graduation Requirements

Prior to registering for 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.

Credits

Students shall be expected to earn a total of 46 high school credits in order to complete graduation requirements. Special education students who have successfully completed their IEP leading to completion of high school will be awarded a diploma.

The core of instruction is twenty-nine high school credits, as outlined below:

Secondary Language Arts and Communication	9 credits
English (language study, composition, literature)	8 credits
Speech or Debate	1 credit

Mathematics	6 credits*
Algebra I (or meets Algebra I standards)	2 credits
Geometry (or meets Geometry standards)	2 credits
Secondary Mathematics of the student's choice	2 credits

\*(2 credits must be taken in the last year of high school in COSSA Academy.

For the purposes of this procedure, the last year of high school shall include the summer preceding the fall start of classes. Students who return to school during the summer or the following fall of the next year for less than a full schedule of courses due to failing to pass a course other than math are not required to retake a math course as long as they have earned six (6) credits of high school level mathematics.)

Science	
Secondary Science	6 credits*
*(4 credits shall be laboratory sciences)	

Social Studies	5 credits
Government	2 credits
US History	2 credits
Economics	1 credit

Humanities	2 credits
Interdisciplinary humanities, visual and performing arts, or Foreign language	

Health/Wellness	1 credit
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### Middle School Credit

If a middle school student completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher before entering the ninth grade, and if that course meets the same standards that are required in high school, then the student has met the high school content area requirement for such course. However, the student still must complete the required number of credits in all high school core subjects identified above in addition to the courses completed in middle school, unless the student is a participant in the 6 in 8 Program.

### College Entrance Examination

A student must take one of the following college entrance or placement examinations before the end of the student's eleventh grade year: COMPASS, ACT, or SAT.

A student may elect an exemption in their eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year from the college entrance exam requirement if the student is:

1. Enrolled in a special education program and has an Individual Education Plan that specifies accommodations not allowed for a reportable score on the approved tests;
2. Enrolled in a Limited English Proficient program for three (3) academic years or less;
3. Enrolled for the first time in grade twelve (12) at an Idaho high school after the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam; or
4. Eligible to take an alternative assessment. In this case the student may instead take the ACCUPLACER placement exam during their senior year.

A student who misses the statewide administration of the college exam during the student's eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year may instead take the examination during his or her twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade year if the student:

1. Transferred to an Idaho school district during his or her eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year;
2. Was homeschooled during his or her eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year; or
3. Missed the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam for a documented medical reason.

### Senior Project

A student shall complete a senior project that includes a research paper and oral presentation by the end of grade twelve (12).

### Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT)

In addition to obtaining the necessary credits as outlined above, a student will show proficiency on the Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) as defined by State Board of Education rules. Students who receive a proficient or advanced score on the grade ten (10) ISAT while in grade nine (9) may bank the score for purposes of meeting their graduation requirements. Students who do not attain at least a proficient score on the Idaho Student Achievement Test will have the option of appealing to the Board for relief from the ISAT proficiency requirement. Students who choose to appeal must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must be enrolled in a special education program and have a current Individual Education Plan; or
2. Must be enrolled in a Limited English Proficiency Program; or
3. Must be enrolled in the fall semester of the senior year.

The District requires that all students who appeal from relief of the ISAT proficiency requirements must successfully complete an alternative program equivalent to the ISAT requirement approved by the Board, or as outlined in their IEP, in order to graduate

The District program that students must use to demonstrate that they possess the skills and knowledge necessary to graduate from COSSA Academy is as follows:

1. Successfully complete performance measures that are equivalent to the sub skills areas measured in the ISAT; and/or
2. Successfully complete multiple factors that evaluate academic proficiency and performance of an individual child. These factors should include:
  - A. Grade point average;
  - B. Assessment scores including the state required assessments, Direct Writing Assessment and/or literacy assessment;
  - C. Performance assessment measures, as appropriate, or other performance entries included in a student's portfolio;
  - D. Other professional/institutional evaluations, including end-of-course assessments, senior projects, community service, work experience, attendance and work ethics documented at school site.

The District alternative programs are aligned to state content standards and are based on academic proficiency and performance.

### 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 Superintendent may approve minor deviation from the graduation requirements.

### Alternative Programs

Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for planned learning experiences from accredited programs, such as summer school, university courses, correspondence courses, and online/virtual 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 COSSA Academy 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.

Those students who will graduate in 2016 and have not received a proficient or advanced score on the ISAT in grade nine (9) will be required to complete an alternative plan for graduation, as designed by the District, including all elements required by state law and administrative rules. The student may enter the alternate path prior to his or her senior year.

### Honor Roll

A student must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 to be placed on the honor roll. Specific information regarding honors at graduation is included in the student handbook.

### Class Rank (Grade Point Average)

Class Rank is compiled from quarter. Courses not eligible for GPA are designated with an asterisk on the report card.

### Early Graduation

A student who completes all of the graduation requirements set forth by the District and the State Department of Education prior to the completion of eight semesters of school attendance in grades 9-12 may petition the Superintendent and Board for early graduation by submitting such a petition to the Superintendent through the building

principal. The Superintendent shall submit the petition to the Board for endorsement and approval at the end of the quarter preceding the requested graduation date. The Superintendent is authorized to create any procedures necessary to assist students to achieve early graduation as well create incentives for participation in any early graduation program. Existing programs providing incentives to complete coursework early are described on the State Department of Education website.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

<b>Idaho Code Sections: 33-119, 33-603, 33-1601, 18-4511, and:</b>	
<b>I.C. § 33-1620, <i>et seq.</i></b>	<b>Mastery Advancement Pilot Program</b>
<b>IDAPA 08.02.01.350</b>	<b>Early Graduation</b>
<b>IDAPA 08.02.03.105</b>	<b>High School Graduation Requirements</b>
<b>IDAPA 08.02.03.107</b>	<b>Middle Level Credit System</b>

**POLICY HISTORY:**

<b>Adopted:</b>	<b>3/16/1998</b>
	<b>Revised and adopted 11/19/2012</b>
	<b>Revised and adopted 10/20/14</b>