

Dell Rapids School District #49-3

Policies and Regulations Code: IKF/IKFA – Instruction



IKF/IKFA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/EARLY GRADUATION

The Board of Education desires that its standards for graduation meet the minimum standards of the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs as well as those of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The minimum requirements for graduation from a four-year high school is 24 credits.

Dell Rapids High School students need the following to graduate:

- 4 credits of English
- 3 credits of Social Studies
- 3 credits of Math**
- 3 credits of Science including either Chemistry or Physics**
- 1 credit of Computer Science
- 1 credit of Fine Arts
- ½ credit of Physical Education
- ½ credit of Health (Students usually fulfill this requirement in middle school health – it is a transcribed course; however, the grade does not factor into students' GPA calculation.)
- 1 credit of the following – any combination –
 - Approved Career and Technical Education
 - World Language
 - Service Learning

**With school and parent/guardian approval, a student may be excused from Algebra II or Geometry, but not both. A student is still required to take three units of Math. If a student is excused from Chemistry or Physics, the student must still take three units of Lab Science.

Students who are more than one credit away from completion of graduation requirements and are unable to meet the graduation requirements will not be permitted to participate in graduation exercises. However, students who are within the one credit completion requirement and have made arrangements to finish course work may participate but will not receive their diploma until completion of all course work.

Certain vocational education courses may be used to partially satisfy required course credit.

A student whose previous high school enrollment has been entirely in non-accredited schools or in alternative instruction pursuant to SDCL 13-27-3 may receive a high school diploma from the Dell Rapids Schools only if that student has met all graduation requirements of the School District as determined by following Policy JG-R-“Transfers from Non-Accredited Schools” and has been enrolled as a full-time student in the Dell Rapids High School for the full senior year.

Early Graduation

Graduation in less than four full academic years will be discouraged. However, students who choose to consider early graduation would need to meet the following criteria:

- A. Complete a minimum of seven (7) semesters.
- B. Maintain a minimum of C+ average (a 6 on our 12 point scale) at the end of the student's junior year.
- C. Be ineligible for all high school activities during the second semester.
- D. Complete an audit of course requirements with the counselor to determine if enough credits exist to graduate. Only correspondence courses that were approved by the principal will be included for early graduation.
- E. Arrange a conference with the principal and counselor and parents prior to registration for the student's senior year.
- F. Complete all senior course requirements during the first semester of the senior year.

Any exceptions to the above criteria may only be made by a majority vote of the Board of Education.

Graduation – Special Education Students

High school special education programs shall be designed and organized in such a way that all students in high school special education shall be given the opportunity to graduate and receive a high school diploma.

LEGAL REFS.: ARSD 24:03:06:06:01

Adopted: February 24, 1992

Revised: November 10, 2014