

NEW

COMPETENCY

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION



As you near graduation, we want to make sure a DPS diploma means you are prepared to be successful in any path you choose — whether that’s the workforce after graduation, continued training for specialized industry certifications or going to college. Starting with our Class of 2021 and every graduating class after that, we have new graduation requirements. **There are three parts:**


**INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND
ACADEMIC PLAN (ICAP)**

COURSEWORK

COMPETENCY

What does it mean to demonstrate competency?

It means being able to show that you’ve learned certain skills, abilities and concepts, and that you are able to apply them in the real world. You not only understand an idea or skill, you are also able to build on what you’ve been taught, and even feel comfortable explaining it to others.

With any college work or job in your future, you will be asked to prove what you know, so in DPS we start that skill early.

**START
EARLY!**



74%

**OF ALL
COLORADO
JOBS BY 2020
WILL REQUIRE
EDUCATION
BEYOND HIGH
SCHOOL**

**LIKE COLLEGE,
TRADE SCHOOL, AN
APPRENTICESHIP OR
MILITARY SERVICE**

Why is it important?

In Colorado, 53% of students in two-year colleges and 20% of students in four-year colleges aren’t ready for college when they get there. They have to take extra classes to catch up, which means it takes longer to graduate and can cost more money in tuition.

Our new graduation requirements are here to make sure students are ready for college and jobs after high school. We want you to feel prepared and confident for your future!

DID YOU KNOW?

More education means more job opportunities, which means you can make more money.



AVERAGE SALARY

\$11,667

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

VS

\$62,609

COLLEGE GRADUATES



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

27%

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

VS

5%

COLLEGE GRADUATES

How can I demonstrate competency?

In order to graduate from DPS, every student will demonstrate competency in English, math and/or career readiness by completing one or more items in the competency menu (listed on the back of this page).

There are lots of ways to show what you’ve learned in school, which is why we created a flexible menu of options to demonstrate competency in English, math and career readiness.



**YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM
MANY COMPETENCY OPTIONS.**
SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS.

Break it down for me. What are my options?

We encourage you to dig into the many options and decide which one may be the right fit for you. In general, the college readiness measures like ACT, SAT and Accuplacer are aligned to the standards set by Colorado colleges and universities; however, each college or university may have unique admissions standards, so it's important for students and families to work with school counselors and other school staff to understand individual requirements.



QUESTIONS?

Talk to your counselor, teacher or school leader.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS COMPETENCY DEMONSTRATION OPTIONS

ENGLISH
Qualifying
Score

MATH
Qualifying
Score

Accuplacer

Taken on a computer, Accuplacer is a multiple-choice exam that tests students' math, reading, writing and computer abilities to ensure they are placed in a college class that matches their skill levels. Accuplacer serves as a diagnostics test for students, as it gives them a full picture of academic strengths and weaknesses.

The lowest possible score on the exam is 20 and the highest possible score is 120.

Note: The Accuplacer assessment and scoring scale will likely change after 2018.

95
SENTENCE
SKILLS

61
ELEMENTARY
ALGEBRA

ACT (American College Testing)

The ACT is a national college entrance exam that measures four subjects: English, reading, math and science.

The highest possible score for each subject is 36.

18

19

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are college-level classes you can take in high school. At the end of the semester, students are encouraged to take the AP exam, which tests how they may perform at the college level.

Scores range from 1 to 5. If a student gains a score of 2 on a qualifying exam, they earn competency. Note, most colleges only give college credit for exam scores of 3 or higher.

2

2

Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent Enrollment allows students to simultaneously earn college and high school credits. Students are able to enroll in college courses for free, saving them both time and money.

Available at all DPS high schools, as well as select charter schools, many Concurrent Enrollment credits are transferable to a two- or four-year degree program.

C-
OR HIGHER
IN ELIGIBLE
COURSE

C-
OR HIGHER
IN ELIGIBLE
COURSE

DPS Capstone

With the Capstone option, students build a portfolio of work throughout their high school experience to show what they've learned and how it applies in the real world. It allows students and educators to monitor progress over time, and students get valuable feedback as they fine-tune their portfolio.

For students who elect a Capstone Portfolio to fulfill the competency requirement, schools will help students track their progress.

**DPS-
APPROVED
ARTIFACTS**

International Baccalaureate (IB)

IB schools focus on international perspectives of learning and teaching, while supporting students in fully exploring their home culture and language. IB programs help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills that prepare students for success in a rapidly globalizing world.

Students enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme will take exams to test competencies. In addition to fulfilling the competency requirement, students can also earn credits or advanced standing at most U.S. colleges and universities.

4

4

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

The SAT exam shows colleges how prepared you are for college by measuring key skills in math, evidence-based reading and writing, and an optional essay.

It is scored on a 200 to 800 point scale, with a "perfect" score being 1,600.

The SAT is offered seven times each year. DPS administers the exam each April for free to juniors. DPS also offers a free online SAT practice program through Khan Academy.

470

500

ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate

ACT WorkKeys is an assessment that tests students' job skills in applied reading, writing, mathematics and 21st-century skills. Scores are based on job profiles that help employers select, hire, train, develop and retain a high-performance workforce.

BRONZE OR HIGHER

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

ASVAB is a comprehensive test that traditionally helps determine students' eligibility for careers in the military; however, the assessment is an option for students even if they don't plan to enlist in the military.

ASVAB tests arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension and mathematics knowledge.

31 (COMPOSITE)



Start early!

Now is the time to start looking for programs at your school that will help you meet competency requirements in English, math and career readiness. For more information, talk with your school counselor and visit www.collegeandcareer.dpsk12.org.

