

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students need to demonstrate achievement of all cross curricular and content-area graduation standards before receiving a high school diploma, beginning with the graduating class of 2021, by meeting competencies through knowledge, skills and work habits.

State of Colorado Diploma Requirements

In the state of Colorado, a student must earn a minimum of 17 credits aligned to Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR), capstone and meet competencies outlined by the state to attain a high school diploma. In an effort to improve the overall academic preparedness for students to graduate college, career, armed forces and work force ready, the Thompson School District's requirements for graduation reflect high academic expectations. Students have the opportunity to take up to 36 credits and at a minimum must earn 20 credits for a Thompson School District Diploma.

Thompson School District Competency-based Diploma

The district's competency-based diploma system requires our schools and educators to provide the interventions, support systems, and personalized-learning pathways that each student needs to meet the expected standards and graduate college, career, armed forces and workforce ready.

Capstone requirements: All students will complete a capstone project, through which students will demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and work habits competencies by conducting a reflective demonstration of their learning and their college/career path for the future.

Statement of Policy

The Thompson School District maintains the goal that every student will receive a high school diploma and be college, career and community ready. All students need to demonstrate achievement of all cross curricular and content-area graduation standards before receiving a high school diploma, beginning with the graduating class of 2021, by meeting competencies through knowledge, skills and work habits.

1. Thompson School District Diploma

The standard Thompson School District high school diploma is awarded to any student who earns 20 credits and completes all required course work, including all state-required courses, assessments and credits. In addition to state HEAR requirements, Thompson School District will require a CTE pathway, capstone, and community service to meet the Thompson School District diploma requirements.

- a. The 20 credit diploma option may be chosen no earlier than July 1 prior to the student's senior year and no later than February 1 of the student's senior year.
- b. Students who earn a 20 credit Thompson School District Diploma may walk with their graduating class.
- c. A student transferring to Thompson School District as a 12th grader may be eligible for a 20 credit Thompson School District Diploma if the following conditions are met:
 - i. The student was on schedule to be a senior at his/her previous school.
 - ii. The student was made aware of their right to stay in Thompson School District and receive a 24 credit Thompson School District Diploma with Honors.

2. Thompson School District Diploma with Honors

The Thompson School District Diploma with Honors is awarded to any student who earns 24 credits and completes all required course work, including all state-required courses, assessments and credits. In addition to state HEAR requirements, Thompson School District will require a CTE pathway, capstone, community service, a additional world language credit, and 3 academic electives at an advanced level to be presented the diploma with honors.

- a. A student who fails to earn the 24 credits needed to receive a Thompson School District Diploma with Honors and who did not apply for a 20 credit Thompson School District Diploma before February 1 of their senior year, may be considered for the diploma by applying after July 1 following his/her scheduled graduation date.

3. Thompson School District Diploma with Distinction

Students earning a Thompson School District Diploma with Distinction are required to earn 28 credits and complete all required course work, including all state-required courses, assessments and credits. In addition to state HEAR requirements, Thompson School District will require a CTE pathway, capstone, community service, an additional world language credit, and 7 academic electives at an advanced level, including one of the following distinctions:

- a. Summa Cum Laude, Magna cum Laude Titles
 - Awarded to students earning a cumulative non-weighted GPA. – TBD
- b. Thompson School District Scholars Award Recipient
 - Awarded to students who meet the Thompson Scholar criteria TBD
- c. Career Pathways Achievement Award Recipient
 - Awarded to students with a Community College awarded Pathway

Thompson School District Academic Requirements for Graduation

For the Thompson School District classes of 2016-2020, the following graduation requirements remain in effect:

Students graduating from the Thompson School District must complete 24 units. Courses must be on the approved high school course master list to qualify for high school credit and be distributed as follows:

English Language Arts / Communication (5 credits)

Math (3 credits)

Science (3 credits)

Social Studies (3 credits)

Physical Education / Health (1 credit)

Electives

- *Fine Arts (.5)*
- *Applied Arts (.5)*
- *Other (8)*

Note: The above requirements will be phased out with the graduating class of 2021.

Commencing with the Class of 2021, all students attending Thompson School District must meet the following graduation requirements and demonstrate competency by meeting competencies through knowledge, skills and work habits.

In accordance with HEAR, meeting the standard requires competency demonstration in each of the following content areas prior to graduation:

1. English Language Arts
2. Mathematics
3. Social Studies
4. Science and Technology
5. Foreign Language
6. Academic Elective

Additionally, students must complete a menu of college and career ready demonstrations (subject to update by the state) and a capstone project:

	English	Math	Science	Social Studies
ACT	≥18	≥19	TBD	-
ACT Compass	79	63		
ACT WorkKeys	Bronze or Higher	Bronze or Higher	-	-
AP	≥2	≥2	TBD	TBD
ASVAB	≥31	≥31	-	-
CMAS	-	-	TBD	TBD
Capstone	Individualized	Individualized	Individualized	Individualized
College Course	C-	C-	C-	C-
Industry Certificate	Individualized	Individualized	Individualized	Individualized
IB	≥4	≥4	TBD	TBD
Performance Assessment	TBD	TBD	-	-
SAT	430	460	-	-

Thompson School District 21st Century Non-Academic Competencies

All students will demonstrate achieved proficiency in the 21st Century Non-Academic Competencies. Each student will leave Thompson School District as a responsible and involved citizen that will:

1. Reason as an informed critical thinker,
2. Clearly and effectively communicate,
3. Engage as a collaborator,
4. Generate creative and innovative ideas, and
5. Persist as a self-directed, life-long learner.

Accelerated Graduation Requirements

While most students will fulfill graduation requirements over the course of a four-year academic program, students may satisfy Thompson School District graduation requirements during a period of time that is either accelerated or lengthened, based on their individual learning needs. All students are expected to develop a Personal Learning Plan-ICAP with assistance from counselors, teachers, and/or administrators that allows them to meet expected standards and diploma requirements at the pace and with the support each student needs.

Certificate of Achievement

The IEP Team determines the student has met the criteria for a Certificate of Achievement as outlined in the Individualized Educational Program (IEP). Award of this certificate can be at the end of the semester in which the student turns 21. The Certificate of Achievement may be awarded at one of three times:

- At a social graduation with common age peers

- At the conclusion of the IEP program
- Upon reaching age 21

If a student meets the graduation requirement to receive a diploma and has met their objectives on their IEP, then they are considered graduated and do not continue to age 21.

Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must meet or exceed all Board requirements for a Thompson School Diploma to participate in graduation exercises.

Adopted January 23, 1991

Revised May 6, 1998

Minor Revision August 18, 2004

Minor Revision February 2008

Revised May 6, 2009

Revised February 17, 2016

Legal ref: C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education)

C.R.S. 22-1-104 (teaching of history, culture and civil government)

C.R.S. 22-32-132 (diplomas-veterans)

Cross ref: IA, Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives

IHCDA, Postsecondary Options/Concurrent Enrollment

IHCG*, On-Line Instruction

ILBA, Student Assessment System

JGA, Assignment of Students to Classes

IHBG, Home-Based Education