

## **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.

### **Thompson School District Competency-Based Diploma System**

In an effort to improve the overall academic preparedness for students to graduate college, career, armed forces and workforce ready, the Thompson School District's requirements for graduation reflect a higher academic expectation, which include a capstone, community service, college and career demonstrations and competencies to attain a high school diploma. Students have the opportunity to take up to 36 credits and at a minimum must earn 20 credits for a Thompson School District Diploma.

**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 career, college and community path for the future.

**Community Service requirements:** All students will complete 20 hours of community service. Community service is a chance for high school students to become a well-rounded individual and have the experience to see life through another lens.

### **Statement of Policy**

The Thompson School District maintains the goal that every student will receive a high school diploma and be college, career, armed forces and workforce 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 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 requirements, Thompson School District students will be required to complete the following additional credits: 3 career pathway credits and 1 career pathway advanced level credit.

- 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 their right to stay in Thompson School District and receive a 24 credit Thompson School District Diploma.
  - iii. The student was made aware that he/she would need to fill out a form to be allowed to graduate with the 20 credit diploma option.

#### **2. Thompson School District Diploma with Honors**

- a. 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 requirements, Thompson School District will require students to complete the following additional credits: 2 world language credits 4 career pathway credits and 3 career pathway advanced level credits. 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 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, credits, and have maintained a 3.5 weighted grade point average (GPA) or higher. In addition to state HEAR requirements, Thompson School District students will be required to complete the following additional credits: 2 world language credits, 7 career pathway credits, and 3 career pathway advanced level credits. Student could be eligible to receive one of the following distinction titles and/or awards:

#### a. Distinction Titles:

1. Summa Cum Laude – 4.0 and above weighted GPA
2. Magma Cum Laude – 3.85 – 3.99 weighted GPA
3. Cum Laude – 3.70 – 3.84 weighted GPA

#### b. Thompson School District Scholars Award

1. Awarded to students who meet the Thompson Scholar criteria see IKF-R

#### c. Career Pathways Achievement Award

1. Awarded to students who complete a Community College awarded career pathway.

### Valedictorian and Salutatorian Designations

Thompson School District will recognize the top ranked student at each high school graduation with the distinction of Valedictorian, and the second student will be given the distinction of Salutatorian.

### College and Career Ready Demonstrations

Students must complete an item from the menu of college and career ready demonstrations in both English Language Arts and Mathematics (subject to update by the state):

	English Language Arts	Mathematics
<b>ACT</b>	≥18	≥19
<b>ACT WorkKeys</b>	Bronze or Higher	Bronze or Higher
<b>ACCUPLACER</b>	62 on Reading Comprehension 70 on Sentence Skills	61 on Elementary Algebra
<b>AP</b>	≥2	≥2
<b>ASVAB</b>	≥31	≥31
<b>College Course</b>	C-	C-
<b>Industry Certificate</b>	Individualized	Individualized
<b>IB</b>	≥4	≥4
<b>Performance Assessment</b>	TBD	TBD
<b>SAT</b>	470	500

### **Thompson School District Work Habit Competencies**

All students will demonstrate achieved proficiency in Work Habit Competencies. Each student will leave Thompson School District as a responsible and involved citizen who will demonstrate:

1. Collaboration
2. Communication
3. Creative Problem Solving
4. Self - Agency

### **Thompson School District Academic Requirements for Graduation classes 2016-2020**

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 (4 credits)

Math (3 credits)

Science (3 credits)

Social Studies (3 credits)

World Language (1 credit)

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.***

### **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 an Individualized Career and Academic 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.

### **Early Graduation**

The Board of Education believes that most students benefit from four years of high school experience and are encouraged not to graduate early. However, in some cases, students need the challenge provided by postsecondary education or other opportunities at an earlier age. Therefore, a high school principal may grant permission to a student requesting early graduation and waive one semester of high school attendance (for early graduation requests requiring a waiver of two semesters of high school attendance, approval of the director of secondary education is also required) provided they:

1. will complete all graduation requirements, including meeting all established proficiencies
2. carry a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
3. have conferred with the high school counselor regarding the advisability of such a waiver
4. have received approval of a parent or guardian (if student is not emancipated)

The superintendent shall report all approvals for early graduation to the Board at the end of each semester.

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

Revised February 21, 2018

Legal ref: C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education law)  
C.R.S. 22-1-104 (teaching of history, culture and civil government)  
C.R.S. 22-32-132 (discretion to award diploma to honorably discharged veterans)  
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(kk) (board to establish graduation requirements that "meet or exceed" state graduation guidelines)  
C.R.S. 22-35-101 et seq. (Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act)

Cross ref: IA, Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives  
IHCDA, Postsecondary Options/Concurrent Enrollment  
IHCG\*, On-Line Instruction  
ILBA, Student Assessment System  
IHBG, Home-Based Education  
IK, Academic Achievement  
IKA, Grading and Assessment Systems  
IKF –E, Graduation Requirements