



Idaho High School Minimum Graduation Requirements FAQ

SCR113

SUMMARY

Since taking office, Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Idaho Department of Education have made updating Idaho’s statewide minimum graduation requirements a top policy priority. These goals include implementing minimum graduation requirements relevant to the needs of 21st-century students.

Although there have been several targeted updates to the graduation requirements over the past five-plus years, there has not been a comprehensive review or update to the graduation requirements by the State Board of Education in over a decade.

The proposed high school graduation requirements updates were approved during the 2025 Legislative session and include the following changes.

1. **DIGITAL LITERACY:** one-credit (1) requirement for all students to complete a digital literacy course.
2. **SECONDARY LANGUAGE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** all students must complete a one-credit (1) communications course.
3. **SCIENCE:** four (4) of the six (6) credits required are from at least two (2) of the four (4) content areas, and an additional two (2) credits may include instruction in applied sciences.
4. **HUMANITIES:** updating “Humanities” to Fine Arts or World Languages.
5. **CREDIT FLEXIBILITY:** LEAs may award credit for learning opportunities in ways that meet course requirements for high school graduation.
6. **FUTURE READINESS PROJECT:** all students must complete a future readiness project by the end of grade twelve (12).
7. **LOCALIZED PATHWAYS:** Local education agencies (LEAs) will be required to develop and publicly post two or more localized pathways.
8. **REVISIONS OF EXISTING LANGUAGE:** Strategic revisions to existing language that eliminate unnecessary or duplicate language and update existing definitions and terms to align with current Idaho content standards.

DIGITAL LITERACY

When does this requirement take effect?

All students graduating after **JANUARY 1, 2028**, must complete a one-credit (1) digital literacy course.

Who can teach Digital Literacy?

Holders of the Idaho Standard Instructional Certificate with a **(5-9)** or **(6-12) ENDORSEMENT** and holders of the **PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL-SPECIFIC TEACHER CERTIFICATE** qualify to teach the digital literacy course.

How do I teach Digital Literacy?

The department will provide free digital literacy resources for educators, just as it did for financial literacy.

What are the Content Standards for Digital Literacy?

The department has developed standards for the new digital literacy course that leverage components of the existing Information and Technology Content Standards, Computer Science Content Standards, and additional standards under development.

The course will focus on fundamental computer science concepts such as algorithms, coding, Artificial Intelligence (AI), basics of Cyber Security, internet safety and social media best practices, and citizenship in the digital world, including communication through digital means, such as online news and information.

Can the Digital Literacy course be embedded into an existing curriculum?

The digital literacy requirement is a stand-alone, one-credit (60-hour) course and cannot be embedded into an existing curriculum.

Can a middle school/junior high school Digital Literacy course be used to fulfill the high school requirement?

The concepts taught in the one-credit (1) high school digital literacy course build upon those taught in earlier grades. In order for a high school course requirement to earn credit, it must first both have an appropriately credentialed instructor and meet the specified content standards. Middle school and high school digital literacy requirements are different.

Can a higher-level Computer Science class be used to substitute for the Digital Literacy class?

The new course includes foundational digital literacy concepts essential for all students to learn.

Higher-level computer science and related courses cannot be used to fulfill the one-credit (1) digital literacy requirement.

SECONDARY LANGUAGE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

When does this requirement take effect?

The Idaho Legislature did not accept the recommendation to replace the existing one-credit (1) of communications with one-credit (1) of digital literacy.

The existing secondary language arts and communications credit requirements remain in place and has not changed.

What are the credit requirements for secondary language arts and communications?

Nine (9) secondary language arts and communications credits are required for a student graduating from an Idaho high school. Eight (8) credits for instruction in Language Arts and one (1) credit for instruction in communications.

SCIENCE

When does this requirement take effect?

This update will take effect **JULY 1, 2025**.

What are the credit requirements for science?

Four (4) of the six (6) credits required are from at least two (2) of the four (4) content areas: physics, chemistry, earth and space, or life science. An additional two (2) credits in secondary sciences may include instruction in applied sciences, physics, chemistry, earth and space sciences, life sciences, engineering, or computer science. Students who choose to take computer science or engineering courses may not concurrently count such courses as both a mathematics and science credit for the same course.

HUMANITIES RENAMED TO FINE ARTS OR WORLD LANGUAGES

[When does this requirement take effect?](#)

This update will take effect **JULY 1, 2025**.

[Why was this change made?](#)

Humanities was renamed to fine arts or world languages to align the graduation requirement with the Idaho content standards for the subjects taught.

[What are the credit requirements for fine arts or world languages?](#)

Two (2) credits are required. Courses include instruction in visual arts, music, theatre, dance, or world languages.

Other courses such as literature, history, philosophy, architecture, or comparative world religions may satisfy the standards if the course is aligned to the Interdisciplinary Humanities Content Standards.

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

[When does this requirement take effect?](#)

This update will take effect **JULY 1, 2025**.

[What is credit flexibility?](#)

Credit flexibility is any instruction in applied concepts that meets Idaho Content Standards to apply for core academic credit(s).

[Can CTE courses or work-based learning apply for core academic credit\(s\)?](#)

Under this provision, CTE courses or work-based learning opportunities that meet the Idaho Content Standards can be considered for academic credit(s).

The department will support LEAs in developing crosswalks and templates to assist in awarding credit for learning opportunities in ways that meet course requirements for high school graduation.

FUTURE READINESS PROJECT

When does this requirement take effect?

Beginning with the **CLASS OF 2028**, all students must complete a Future Readiness Project by the end of grade twelve (12).

What is the Future Readiness Project?

The future readiness project replaces the existing senior project. It will be a culminating project demonstrating a student's application of Idaho's college and career competencies and focused on the exploration of potential post-high school options.

What is included in the Future Readiness Project?

The future readiness project is an individualized student project that must include an experiential component, such as a work-based, service-based, research-based, or portfolio-based experience in which a student demonstrates the acquisition of the State Board of Education adopted Idaho College and Career Competencies.

Experiences like apprenticeships, internships, volunteer work, and extracurricular activities related to real-world skills acquisition will count toward this requirement.

What are the Idaho College and Career Competencies?

Adopted in 2017 by the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho College and Career Competencies represent a set of knowledge, skills, and attributes that broadly prepare graduates for a successful transition into some form of postsecondary education and/or the workplace.

Where can I find the Idaho College and Career Competencies?

The competencies can be found at the State Board of Education website at <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/resources/college-and-career-readiness-competencies/>.

Who determines how students will demonstrate the acquisition of competencies?

LEAs will determine how students demonstrate the acquisition of college and career competencies and may require additional components.

The department will provide templates and oversee the implementation of the future readiness project requirement.

LOCALIZED PATHWAYS

When does this requirement take effect?

This requirement must be implemented by all LEAs by **JUNE 30, 2026**.

What is a localized pathway?

Localized pathways are a framework of locally provided offerings that identify core and elective credits, assessments, and other opportunities aligned to various postsecondary outcomes. LEAs will determine the framework used; students may select offerings aligned with localized pathways.

Examples of localized pathways could include, but are not limited to:

- 2-year or 4-year college and university readiness.
- Military readiness.
- Apprenticeships.
- Direct entry into a trade or career; OR
- Exploration of postsecondary opportunities.

The department will provide templates to assist LEAs with implementing this provision.

Are students required to complete a localized pathway to graduate?

The requirement is for LEAs to develop and post publicly two or more localized pathways.

Completing a localized pathway is not a requirement for graduation.

REVISIONS OF EXISTING LANGUAGE

When do these revisions take effect?

Revisions of existing language in the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) will take effect **JULY 1, 2025**.

What revisions were approved by the 2025 Legislature?

During the 2025 session, strategic revisions to existing language, eliminating unnecessary or duplicate language, and updating existing definitions and terms to align with current content standards were approved.

Revisions and updates to existing definitions include:

- Updating the definition for **ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES**, replacing “Technical Competency Credit” with microcredentials (IDAPA 08.02.03.007.02).
- Adding a definition for **APPLIED SCIENCE** (IDAPA 08.02.03.007.05).
- Updating the definition for **DUAL CREDIT** to “credit awarded to a student on his or her secondary and postsecondary transcript for the completion of a single course” (IDAPA 08.02.03.007.14).
- Removing the definition for “**LABORATORY**” (IDAPA 08.02.03.007.16).
- Adding a definition for **LOCALIZED PATHWAY** (IDAPA 08.02.03.007.17).
- Updating the definition for **PORTFOLIO** to “a digital or physical collection of materials that documents and demonstrates a student’s learning” (IDAPA 08.02.03.007.18).
- Removing the definition for “**TECHNICAL COMPETENCY CREDIT**” (IDAPA 08.02.03.007.21).
- Adding a definition for **WORK-BASED LEARNING** (IDAPA 08.02.03.007.24).

Revisions to align with current content standards include:

- Updating the **MASTERY** credit requirement by adding “students must demonstrate mastery of Idaho Content Standards in a format provided by the LEA” (IDAPA 08.02.03.105.01.b).
- Adding **CREDIT FLEXIBILITY** (IDAPA 08.02.03.105.01.c).
- Updating the **MATHEMATICS** credit requirement to allow engineering courses and computer science courses aligned to the state standards to be counted as mathematics credit and clarifying that computer science or engineering courses may not concurrently count as both a mathematics and science credit for the same course (IDAPA 08.02.03.105.01.e).
- Updating **HEALTH/WELLNESS** to require students to receive at least one (1) CPR *training*, not one class period (IDAPA 08.02.03.105.01.i).

For Questions Contact

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