

## BASIC INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The basic instruction program will include the courses required for each grade level by the State Department of Education. The instructional approach will be gender fair and multicultural.

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in kindergarten is designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits, language arts and communication skills, the capacity to complete individual tasks, character education and the ability to protect and increase physical well-being with attention given to experiences relating to the development of life skills and human growth and development.

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades one through six will include English-language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, health, human growth and development, physical education, traffic safety, music, and visual art.

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades seven and eight will include English-language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, health, human growth and development, family and consumer, career, technology education, physical education, music, and visual art.

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades nine through twelve will include English-language arts (6 units), social studies (5 units), mathematics (6 units), science (5 units), health (1 unit), physical education (1 unit), fine arts (3 units), foreign language (4 units), financial literacy (1/2 unit) and vocational education (12 units).

The board may, in its discretion, offer additional courses in the instruction program for any grade level.

Each instruction program is carefully planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the school district and other factors deemed relevant by the board or superintendent. Each instruction program's plan should describe the program, its goals, the effective materials, the activities and the method for student evaluation.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations stating the required courses and optional courses for kindergarten, grades one through six, grades seven and eight, and grades nine through twelve.

### **Requirements for Graduation**

Graduating students during the 2017-18 school year to have earned 49 credits. One credit may be earned for the successful completion of each semester of an academic course. One-half credit for PE may be earned per semester. A maximum of eight band/vocal credits may be applied towards the total needed for graduation. The following specific courses are required:

English	8 credits
Science	6 credits
Mathematics	6 credits
Social Studies	6 credits
Health	1 credit
Life Skills	1 credit
Physical Education	4 credits

### **Enrollment Policies**

Freshman, sophomore, and junior students are expected to enroll in a minimum of five academic subjects plus P.E. per semester. Senior students are expected to enroll in a minimum of four academic subjects plus P.E. per semester. The counselor and the principal will monitor each student's progress toward graduation.

During the first week of a semester a course may be added or dropped with the approval of the high school counselor and the principal. Course changes will only be made when it is in one of the following categories: A) A teacher requests the change; B) Necessary change for graduation purposes (includes contracts for seniors) or D) Other unusual circumstances as approved by the counselor and the principal.

### **Dual Credit Courses**

Dual credit refers to allowing credit earned at a community college, college, or university to be applied toward credit for high school graduation. This subject is referenced in the School Laws of Iowa (282.26). The law states that schools may allow credit earned at a college to be applied toward credit for high school graduation. Credit earned at a college will be allowed to apply toward credit for high school graduation as long as the following criteria are met:

1. The student would set up, with the guidance counselor's approval, his or her program prior to enrolling in any college classes.
2. This program is available to juniors and seniors or to identified high school TAG students.
3. That a student must take a minimum of 36 credits at the local high school to apply toward high school graduation requirements. The total number of local school credits is 49.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (2010).  
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (2010).  
Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 256.11; 279.8; 280.3-.14 (2013).  
281 I.A.C. 12.5.

Cross Reference: 102 Equal Educational Opportunity  
103 Long-Range Needs Assessment  
505 Student Scholastic Achievement  
602 Curriculum Development  
603 Instructional Curriculum

Approved: February 18, 1993  
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