

## **Monte Vista High School GPA and Graduation Requirements**

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements.

### **District Academic Standards**

All students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards prior to becoming eligible to graduate or complete the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), which may include modified academic standards.

Graduation from high school is a culminating event that results from the foundations built at the elementary and middle school levels. Graduation is a collaborative effort among levels in a student's public school career. Each level of school and each staff member or parent/guardian who instructs or counsels a student shares responsibility for the ultimate ability of that student to demonstrate proficiency in the district's academic standards and to meet the expectations for graduation.

All AP classes will be weighted in determining GPA as follows:

Regular Courses	AP Courses
A = 4	A = 5
B = 3	B = 4
C = 2	C = 3
D = 1	D = 2
F = 0	F = 0

Units of credit needed: Monte Vista High School shall require completion of one of three diploma types, successful completion of performance assessments, and the submission of portfolio items for graduation. Upon meeting these requirements, a diploma will be issued that certifies that the graduate possesses the knowledge and skills necessary for entry into the workplace and/or post-secondary education. The three diploma types are listed below:

- A. Students must successfully complete 29 credits from the following to receive a Collegiate Diploma and meet the minimum state graduation requirements.

Language Arts- 4 credits English (9, 10, 11, 12, AP Language, AP Literature)

Science- 4 credits Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and/or AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Anatomy, Science Seminar, (1 Full credit of STEM can be used as a Science Credit if student has completed through Physics as stated above)

Social Studies- 3 credits (World Geography or World History, US History, US Government, AP Government)

Mathematics- 4 credits (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II/Trig, Pre-Calculus, Calculus)  
Must include through Algebra II. (1 Full credit of STEM can be used as a Math Credit If student has completed through Algebra II)

Physical Education- 1 credit

Fine/Practical Art- 3 credits (must include at least 1 Fine Art and 1 Practical Art)

Foreign Language- 2 credits (must be of same language)

Electives- no particular requirement

- B. Students must successfully complete 26 credits from the following to receive a Comprehensive Diploma

Language Arts- 4 credits English (9, 10, 11, 12, AP Language, AP Literature)

Science- 3 credits May include STEM classes (Successful completion of at least 2 of the following: Biology, Chemistry, or Physics necessary).

Social Studies- 3 credits (World Geography or World History, US History, US Government, AP Government)

Mathematics- 3 credits May include STEM classes (Successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry necessary).

Physical Education- 1 credit

Computer Skills- 1 credit

Fine/Practical Art- 2 credits (1 Fine Art, 1 Practical Art)

Electives- 9 credits

- C. Students must complete 24 credits with flexibility and in accordance with IEP as well as 4 years satisfactory attendance (Included classes must be Life Skills and Career Exploration) to receive a Standard Diploma.
- D. A Writing Assessment must be passed during one of the four years of high school with a minimum score of 3 (out of 4.0 scale). Once passed, the test need not be taken again. Waiver requests will be considered on a case by case basis.
- E. Students must submit portfolio items as outlined below: Career Plan, One Letter of Application to post-secondary opportunity, Resume (including school and non-school honors and achievements, Three Letters of Recommendation, One personal autobiographical essay.

- F. Requests for waiver of any of the above mentioned graduation requirements should be submitted in writing to the office of the principal for consideration. The principal may appoint a committee to review each request and reserves the right to waiver based on just cause.
- G. Independent study, work study (paid), internship, and teacher aide classes will be graded on a pass/fail system.
- H. Students enrolled at Monte Vista High School are able to earn elective credit if they obtain a specific score during the CSAP and ACT Testing Program. During the 9th, 10th, and 11th grade, students may earn elective credit in the following manner:
  - a. Students in grade 9,10, and 11 will receive .25 elective credit each year for each Colorado State Assessment where their score is determined to be:
    - i. Proficient or advanced TBA
    - ii. Raised from the previous testing year for that subject area from unsatisfactory to partially proficient. TBA
  - b. Students in grade 11 are eligible to receive elective credit for performance on the state mandated ACT test in the following manner:
    - i. A student who receives a composite score of or above 22 on the test will receive .75 elective credit.
    - ii. A student who attends the ACT preparation training offered by the school with no absences and receives a composite score of 18 or above on the test will receive .25 elective credit for the preparation training.

### **Credit from other institutions and home-based programs**

All students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements. The principal shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the district. Students who are currently enrolled in the district and wish to obtain credit from outside institutions, or through “online” programs, must have prior approval from the principal. When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average. The district shall accept the transcripts from an accredited home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and district academic standards, the district shall require submission of the student’s work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, the district may administer testing to the student to verify the accuracy of the student’s transcripts. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

### **Years of attendance**

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, the principal may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirements at the collegiate level.

Adopted: 05/28/92

Revised: 01/11/96, 08/20/98, 12/14/00, 08/23/01, 10/15/01, 05/13/04, 02/09/06, 05/20/09, 01/13/11, 07/22/14, 04/09/15, 08/13/15

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

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment  
AEA, Standards Based Education  
IHBG, Home Schooling  
IHBK\*, Preparation for Postsecondary and Workforce Success  
IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment  
IK, Academic Achievement  
IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems

*NOTE 1: In May 2013, the State Board of Education adopted a comprehensive set of guidelines regarding high school graduation requirements. State law establishes a process for local boards of education to develop their own local graduation guidelines that meet or exceed these state graduation guidelines. The following are the critical dates in this process.*

***By the beginning of the 2014-15 school year*** — local school boards must adopt high school graduation requirements applicable to students enrolling in the ninth grade in the 2014-15 school year. These local graduation requirements must “meet or exceed any minimum standards or core competencies or skills identified” in the state graduation guidelines. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(II). Staff at the Colorado Department of Education inform CASB that a local board of education meets this statutory requirement for 2014-15 if: (1) the local board has adopted academic standards that meet or exceed the state’s academic standards, including standards concerning 21<sup>st</sup> century skills; and (2) the district develops an Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) for every student beginning in at least the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

*Local school boards must undertake a community-based process to develop a blueprint for the education system in the community and to determine the skills students will need to be successful after graduation. School boards shall seek input from the community at large, which may include students, parents, business persons, neighboring school districts and BOCES. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(I).*

***Prior to the 2017-18 school year*** —School boards shall use the blueprint, along with the state graduation guidelines, to establish high school graduation requirements. These local graduation requirements shall be implemented and apply to students enrolling in the ninth grade in the 2017-18 school year, but can be implemented before 2017-18 if the board wishes to do so.

*Each school board shall report its blueprint and its new or revised high school graduation requirements to the public through the accreditation process as determined by the State Board. In its report, the school board shall demonstrate how its high school graduation requirements meet or exceed any minimum standards, core competencies or skills identified in the state graduation guidelines. C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk)(II).*

*NOTE 2: In August 2013, the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission for Higher Education jointly approved the criteria for the postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) high school diploma endorsement. State law permits local boards of education to choose whether to require “demonstration of postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) as a graduation requirement” and also permits boards to choose to grant a PWR endorsement to each graduating high school student who meets the criteria.” C.R.S. 22-7-1016(3), -1017(1)(a). A high school student who graduates with a PWR endorsement is guaranteed admission to some state institutions of higher education and is given “priority consideration” for admission into more selective state institutions of higher education, such as the University of Colorado. C.R.S. 22-7-1017(2).*