

# H I G H S C H O O L GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As approved by the South Dakota Board of Education in November 2009

**4** units of **LANGUAGE ARTS** must include:

Writing: 1.5 units	Literature: 1.5 units
Speech or Debate: .5 unit	(must include .5 unit American Literature)
Language Arts elective: .5 unit	

**3** units of **MATHEMATICS** must include:

Algebra I: 1 unit	Geometry: 1 unit
Algebra II: 1 unit	

**3** units of **LAB SCIENCE** must include:

Biology: 1 unit	Chemistry or Physics: 1 unit
Any Physical Science: 1 unit	

**3** units of **SOCIAL STUDIES** must include:

U.S. History: 1 unit	World History: .5 unit
U.S. Government: .5 unit	Geography: .5 unit
Social Studies elective: .5 unit	

**1** unit of **ANY COMBINATION** of the following:

Approved Career & Technical Education	Capstone Experience or Service Learning
	World Language

**1** unit of **Fine Arts**

**1/2** unit of **Personal Finance or Economics**

**1/2** unit of **Physical Education**

**1/2** unit of **Health or Health Integration**



A student's personal learning plan must document a minimum of 22 credits that include the above requirements.

With school and parent/guardian approval, a student may be excused from a **math** and/or **science** course in favor of a more appropriate course. A student is still required to take three units of Math. If a student is excused from **Chemistry** or **Physics**, the student must still take three units of Lab Science. A student's parent or legal guardian and school counselor or administrator must agree to the decision, and the excuse must be documented at the local level. See Appendix for sample forms: Algebra II or Geometry Exclusion Documentation; Chemistry or Physics Exclusion Documentation.

Beginning with students who entered 9th grade in fall 2013, academic core content may be earned by completing an **approved career and technical education course**. Approval to offer credit must be obtained through an application process with the Department of Education. Visit <http://doe.sd.gov/octe/corecontentcredit.aspx> for application details.

A district may decide to offer credit for extracurricular **Fine Arts** activities. Students may be granted up to one credit in Fine Arts for participation in extracurricular activities. A maximum .25 credit may be granted for each activity in each school year.

Beginning with students who entered 9th grade in fall 2013, students are required to take .5 unit of **Health** at any time during grades 6-12. A district may choose to integrate Health across the curriculum at the middle or high school level in lieu of a stand-alone course. See the Health and Health Integration section of this handbook for more information.

**"Double dipping" is not allowed.** Courses may not be counted more than once to fulfill high school graduation requirements. For example, Economics cannot meet both the Social Studies elective credit requirement and the Personal Finance or Economics credit requirement. It can only meet one of the requirements.