

**STUDENT
SERIES 500**

Policy Title: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

**No. 505.5
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A student must successfully meet the State of Iowa and Missouri Valley Community School District graduation requirements in order to receive a diploma, and participate in graduation ceremonies.

High school students graduating from Missouri Valley Community School must complete 50 credits before graduation.

The following credits will be required:

- Language Arts 4 Years, 8 credits
 - *Required:* English 9, English 10, and English 11
- Science 3 years, 6 credits
 - *Required:* Integrated Science and Biology
- Social Studies 3 years, 6 credits
 - *Required:* World History, American History, American Government, and Behavioral Sciences
- Mathematics 4 years in high school, 8 credits
 - *Required:* Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
- Senior Seminar One Semester
 - *Required*
- Physical Education 1 semester per academic year or waiver on file
 - *Required*
- CPR Offered by the District or proof of completion
 - *Required*

Students attending Missouri Valley High School during their freshman year are also required to take Freshman Seminar.

Students attending Missouri Valley High School are required to take senior seminar during their senior year. In extenuating circumstances, a student may be allowed to take Senior Seminar during their junior year. This circumstance must be approved by the building principal.

The board will annually review the High School program of course offerings.

Students earning high school credit while in middle school will be able to use those credits to meet graduation elective requirements. Please note that high school courses taken in middle school will count in the student's high school GPA.

Graduation requirements for students receiving special education services, will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and will follow one of the two pathways: High School Diploma or Certificate of Completion.

Prior to graduation, the district will advise students on how to successfully complete the free application for federal student aid.

Students who complete a regular session in the Legislative Page Program of the general assembly at the state capitol will be credited ½ credit of social studies.

Beginning with the school year starting July 1, 2026, students must receive a passing score on the civics test as set forth by the Iowa Department of Education and required by relevant laws.

High School Diploma

The district will provide a diploma to students receiving special education services upon successful completion of four years of English, four years of math, three years of social studies and three years of science (4-4-3-3).. This can include:

- Diploma earned based on completion of 4-4-3-3 as outlined above, with or without accommodations
- Diploma earned based on the completion of 4-4-3-3 as outlined above, plus IEP goals

Certificate of Completion

The District will provide a certificate of completion to students receiving special education services who do not complete 4-4-3-3..

- Students who receive a certificate of completion will complete courses and expectations outlined in the IEP. Students will not be required to earn credits and will not receive a GPA.
- Students who receive a certificate of completion remain eligible for special education services until they reach maximum age of 21

Prior to the student’s graduation, the IEP team will determine whether the graduation criteria have been met.

If students who receive special education services are not physically able to complete CPR training must have it noted in their IEP.

Students who continue their education through another program with the IEP remaining open will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of their senior year.

The provisions of this policy will apply to all students transferring into Missouri Valley High School.

The board must approve exceptions to this policy.

This is a mandatory policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A;
279.8; 280.3, .14 (1995). 281 I.A.C. 12.2; .3(7);
.5;41.10(9).

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