

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS POLICY - BMHS

The Board of Trustees of Mountain Home School District is committed to maintaining a rigorous curriculum and performance standards designed to promote student achievement. Toward that end, all students graduating from Mountain Home School District will meet the State of Idaho, Mountain Home School District's, and Bennett Mountain High School's (BMHS) graduation requirements or alternative graduation requirements.

Students who wish to enroll in BMHS must meet certain criteria.

1. Students must meet any **THREE** of the following five criteria:

- a. Has repeated at least one grade
- b. Has absenteeism that is greater than 10% (missed more than nine days) during preceding semester
- c. Has an overall grade point average less than 1.5 prior to enrollment in an alternative school
- d. Has failed one or more academic subjects (English, Math, Science, Reading)
- e. Is two or more semester credits behind the rate required to graduate on time

OR

2. Students must meet any **ONE** of the following six criteria:

- a. Has been through a substance abuse behavior program
- b. Is pregnant or a parent
- c. Is an emancipated teen (not living with parent(s) for 30 days)
- d. Is a previous dropout, voluntary or involuntary
- e. Has serious personal, emotional, or medical problems
- f. Is a court or agency referral
- g. Has been suspended two or more times for behavior problems

Students must be enrolled for a minimum of one (1) credit during one of the four blocks of study of their senior year to participate in the graduation ceremony and to receive a Mountain Home School District diploma.

STANDARDS FOR GRADUATION

The Mountain Home School District has established that all students graduating from Mountain Home High School must meet the following requirements:

1. **LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS:** A student must meet locally established subject area achievement standards as demonstrated through various measures of

accountability including examinations or other measures. The local standards must meet or exceed the standards set by the state.

Definition: Credit – Successful completion of one semester = 1 credit.

2. **GRADUATING STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING SEMESTER CREDITS:**

<u>English</u>	8 credits
<u>Speech</u>	1 credit
<u>Mathematics</u>	6 credits
<u>Science</u>	6 credits
<u>Economics</u>	1 credit
<u>Humanities</u>	2 credits
<u>Social Studies</u>	4 credits
<u>Health</u>	1 credit
<u>Electives:</u>	17 credits
TOTAL	46 credits

(See *Procedures for Graduation Requirements - BMHS* for detailed explanation of credits)

Note: No credit will be received when repeating a class if previous credit was earned. The higher grade earned will be used to calculate the GPA.

and

CIVICS TEST: – Idaho Legislators require that beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, all secondary pupils must show they have met the state civics and government standards for such instruction through the successful completion of the United States Citizenship Test as outlined in Idaho Code 33-1602(7) or alternate path established by the local school district.

"Civics Test" means the one hundred (100) questions used by officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services as a basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order that the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and the

principles and form of United States government, as required by 8 U.S.C. section 1423. The state board of education may promulgate implementation rules.

Assessment of standards shall be included as part of the course at the secondary level. The school district may determine the method and manner in which to administer the civics test. A school district shall document on the pupil's transcript that the pupil has passed the civics test.

The applicability of this subsection to a pupil who receives special education services shall be governed by such pupils' individualized education plan.

The civics test may be taken in whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade 7 and it may be repeated as often as necessary for the student to pass the test.

and

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION: All students must take a college entrance examination (ACT, SAT, or COMPASS) before the end of the student's eleventh (11th) grade.

1. A student who missed the statewide administration of the college exam during the student's 11th grade may take the examination during the student's 12th grade to meet this requirement, if the student:
 - a. Transferred to the District during the student's 11th grade;
 - b. Was homeschooled during the student's 11th grade;
 - c. Missed the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam dates for documented medical reasons.
2. A student may elect an exemption in the 11th grade from the college entrance exam requirements, if the student is:
 - a. Enrolled in a special education program and has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that specifies accommodations not allowed for a reportable score on the approved tests; or
 - b. Enrolled in a Limited English (LEP) program for three (3) academic years or less; or
 - c. Enrolled for the first time in 12th grade at high school after the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam.

3. Students who are eligible to take an alternate assessment may take the ACCUPLACER placement exam during their senior year to meet the College Entrance Exam Graduation Requirement.

and

SENIOR PROJECT: A student must complete a senior project that includes a written report and oral presentation by the end of grade 12 (see Graduation Requirements Procedures). The district may impose additional requirements at its discretion.

3. **TRANSFER CREDITS FROM TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS**

The Board recognizes that mobility can affect a student’s educational program. To meet the Mountain Home School District’s graduation requirements, transfer credits from other secondary schools will be accepted provided:

- a. The sending school is an accredited high school with membership in the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges or its approved counterparts in other states; or
- b. The sending school is an accredited high school with membership in the National Association of Private Schools; or
- c. The sending school is a high school approved by the Idaho State Department of Education and passes a standards review as determined by the high school principal and/or the superintendent, or designee. The administration shall accept transfer credits from any home study, home instructional program, or private school that meets the above standards is approved by the Idaho State Department of Education.

4. **TRANSFER CREDITS FROM CORRESPONDENCE / VIRTUAL SCHOOLS**

The Mountain Home School District will accept credits toward high school graduation from any accredited correspondence or virtual high school course, provided the credits were earned in grades 9 through 12.

- a. All courses taken through any accredited correspondence and/or virtual high school will be included in the student’s transcript no matter if the course was passed or not and will be averaged into the student’s GPA.

5. **HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT PRIOR TO GRADE NINE (I.C. 33-512C)**

DEFINITIONS:

Graduation Credits: Credits applied to the Mountain Home School District’s graduation requirements must be earned in grades 9 through 12.

Credits will be awarded to any student who completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher before entering grade nine (9), if the following criteria are met:

1. The course meets the same standards that are required in high school;
2. The course is taught by a properly certified teacher who meets the federal definition of being highly qualified for the course being taught; and
3. The school providing the course is accredited as recognized by the Idaho State Board of Education.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student's grade and the number of credit hours assigned to the course will be transferred to the student's high school transcript.

- Courses taken in the junior high school or middle school appearing in the student's high school transcript, pursuant to this policy, shall count for the purpose of high school graduation. However, the student must complete the required number of credits in all high school core subjects as identified in this policy.

EXCEPTIONS

Students must take two (2) semester credits of the required six (6) semester mathematics credits during the final year of high school.

This policy does not apply to obtaining credit for senior projects.

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As a condition of issuance of a diploma or certificate, or as a condition for issuance of a transcript, all indebtedness incurred by a person when he or she was a student must be paid. Furthermore, all books, or other instructional material, uniforms, athletic equipment, advances on loans, or other personal property of the school district borrowed by the person when he or she was a student of the district must be returned. The payment of fees may be excused upon an adequate showing of financial need or other exigency.

CREDIT CALCULATION

Credits toward graduation requirements cannot be counted more than once for meeting the minimum requirements.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Sections

18-4511 – School Duties – Records of Missing Child – Identification upon Enrollment –
Transfer of Student Records

Title 33, Chapter 55 – District Trustees

33-119 – Accreditation of Secondary Schools – Standards for Elementary Schools

33-512C – Encouragement of Gifted Students

33-603 – Payment of Fees or Returning of Property

33-1601, *et seq.* – Courses of Instruction

State Board of Education Administrative Rules, Sections 104, 105, and 107

IDAPA 08.02.01.350 Early Graduation,

IDAPA 08.02.03.105 Graduation from High School

IDAPA 08.02.03.107 High School Graduation Standards

IDAPA Proposed Rule 08.02.03.104 (August 14, 2014) – Other Required Instruction

IDAPA Proposed Rule 08.02.03.105 (August 14, 2014) – High School Graduation Requirements

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