

# ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## Credit Equivalents

One (1) unit of high school credit is defined as the amount of credit earned in a year-long class.  
One-half (.5) unit of high school credit is the amount of credit earned in a semester class.

For DUAL CREDIT, three (3) or four (4) semester hours of college credit earned is equal to one-half (.5) high school credit.

## Student Classification

Students are classified according to number of credits earned, not number of years in high school.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Credits Earned</u>
Sophomore	5 credits
Junior	11 credits
Senior	16 credits

## Grading System

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade Earned</u>
93 – 100	A
85 – 92	B
77 – 84	C
70 – 76	D
Below 70	F

## Scholastic Class Rank

Students' rank will be based on the final grades in all subjects, after the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of their senior year. Students who have maintained the following Grade Point Averages (GPA) will be recognized as:

Summa Cum Laude	3.8
Magna Cum Laude	3.5
Cum Laude	3.2

## Reading Requirement

To graduate from RCAS high schools, students must demonstrate the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level / 1,000 Lexile level of reading proficiency on a district adopted standardized test. Students in Grades 9-12 who have not met the reading requirement must continue to enroll in Reading class until the 9.0 Grade Level Equivalency / 1,000 Lexile level is met.

## Early Graduates

In order to successfully graduate early, students must meet with their school counselor within the 1<sup>st</sup> nine (9) weeks of their senior year. The diploma will be awarded at the conclusion of the school year.

### **Senior Meetings**

It is recommended that Seniors complete a senior meeting with their school counselor within the first nine (9) weeks of the Senior school year. Students are responsible for making the appointment for the meeting. This interview will include a credit check and will act as an informational meeting in preparation for the students' post high school plans.

### **Homeschool (Alternative Instruction)**

Homeschool students may receive a high school diploma from Rapid City Area Schools only if those students have met all the Rapid City Area Schools' graduation requirements. Students enrolled in the Homeschool Program receive no credit through homeschool instruction. Only credits earned through an accredited institution will be accepted. The official transcript must be submitted to Rapid City Area Schools by the accredited institution. A student who has met all graduation requirements and has earned credit in a Rapid City high school program during at least one semester of their senior year may receive a Rapid City high school diploma. RCAS District Code: IKF-Graduation Requirements

Courses have been identified for which students may receive credit by exam through the South Dakota Department of Education End of Course / Course Equivalency Exam Program (Test Out Program). This enables students to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives and to receive credit as outlined in RCAS District Code: IHH-Course Test Out.

### **Online/Distance Learning**

**District Code: IGCB**

#### **ONLINE/DISTANCE LEARNING**

#### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to make clear the process for receiving high school credit for online or distance learning courses.

#### **II. General Statement of Policy**

- A. A student enrolled in a distance learning course or an online course may receive high school credit for the course completed, provided the following:
  - 1. The course is approved by the South Dakota Department of Education and listed on the South Dakota Virtual School's website under approved providers, or
  - 2. The building principal approves the course in advance. (Complete the application for online/distance courses available in the Student Services Office of your high school.)
- B. Parents are responsible for expenses charged by the online/distance provider.

#### **III. Definitions**

- A. "Distance Learning" is the technology and educational process used to provide instruction when the student and primary instructor are not physically present at the same time or place.
- B. "South Dakota Virtual School" is a clearinghouse of distance courses offered by approved providers.
  - 1. South Dakota Virtual School's website is: <https://sdvs.k12.sd.us/>

#### **IV. Dissemination of Policy and Training**

- A. This policy shall appear in student handbooks and course guides.
- B. The school district shall develop a method of discussing this policy with school personnel.

## Legal References:

- [13-33-20](#) Distance learning defined.
- [13-33-21](#) Certificate authorizing distance learning provider to provide courses required.
- [13-33-22](#) Promulgation of rules relating to distance learning certificate.
- [13-33-23](#) Promulgation of rules establishing priorities and eligibility for distance learning courses.
- [13-33-24](#) South Dakota virtual school created.
- [13-33-25](#) South Dakota Virtual School Advisory Council established.

For additional information on South Dakota Virtual School, please go to: <https://sdvs.k12.sd.us/>