

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COURSE EQUIVALENCY EXAM PROGRAM (Test Out Program)

RCAS District Code IHH allows any student enrolled in RCAS in grades 9-12 to challenge courses specifically identified by the Board of Education including Integrated Math 1, Integrated Math 2, Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, World History, Geography, U.S. History, U.S. Government, Computer Applications (formerly Information and Communication Technology 1), English 9, and Spanish 1.

Students will be allowed to test out of and receive up to eight (8) credits toward high school graduation. Students will be allowed to challenge a specific course only once. Students must earn a score of 85 percent or better to successfully challenge a course.

Successfully challenged courses will be recorded as a pass on student's official transcripts and will not affect the student's official grade point average. "If a transcribed letter grade is required for scholarship eligibility or college admissions, the student must submit a written request to the appropriate Student Services Office requesting a letter grade. Student's request should be received in the Student Services Office no later than the last day of the first semester of the student's senior year. When a Test Out credit letter grade is assigned, the resulting letter grade may not be calculated in the high school GPA and Class Rank (District Code: IHH-PI)."

Testing is coordinated through the District Coordinator, Nicole Swigart, located at Rapid City High School at 939-6515. Examinations are comprehensive and assess factual knowledge as well as process and performance skills.

There are appropriate circumstances for using the Test Out Program; for example, a student who enrolls in the district but who does not have a course(s) required for graduation or a homeschooled student who wants to enroll in Rapid City Area Schools might appropriately take advantage of the Test Out Program. Students who believe they have already mastered the content for a course and are seeking more challenging curriculum should consider taking one of these examinations. Please visit with your school counselor regarding the Test Out Program or visit the website at www.rcas.org.

There are also circumstances where a student will not be allowed to take a Course Equivalency Exam. According to the SD Department of Education (SDDOE) guidelines, students who have spent "seat time" for a class can no longer take the Course Equivalency Exam . This would include but is not limited to: attempting to raise a non-failing grade, or attempting to raise a failing grade in a course in which a student is currently enrolled, or testing out of a class that the student has already failed.