

REVISED POLICY – 1ST READING – AUGUST 15, 2006

6100 INSTRUCTION - GENERAL

6120 GRADUATION

6123 Graduation Requirements - Colorado's Finest Alternative High School

A. Proficiencies

Students will have demonstrated proficiencies determined by the Board of Education to be necessary for entry into the work place and to post-secondary education.

Demonstrate proficiency in reading by:

- Scoring proficient or advanced as measured by the 10th grade *criterion referenced*, Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) test; or
- Attaining a RIT score between the range of 235–256 (75th percentile) as measured by the 10th grade nationally standardized Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) test; or
- Meeting or exceeding the Colorado state average on the ACT standardized test; or
- Attaining an 11th grade-equivalent score on a nationally norm-referenced reading test.

Demonstrate proficiency in writing by:

- Scoring proficient or advanced as measured by the 10th grade *criterion referenced*, Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) test; or
- Attaining a score between the range of 18-25 possible points (proficient – advanced) as measured by the high school writing rubric.

Demonstrate proficiency in mathematics by:

- Scoring proficient or advanced as measured by the 10th grade *criterion referenced*, Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) test; or
- Attaining a RIT score between the range of 245-257 (75th percentile) as measured by the 10th grade nationally standardized Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) test; or
- Meeting or exceeding the Colorado state average on the ACT standardized test; or
- Attaining an 11th grade-equivalent score on a nationally norm-referenced mathematics test.

Demonstrate proficiency in oral expression by:

- ~~Attaining a score of proficient or advanced on two oral tasks as measured by the oral expression rubric. The tasks include an interview and/or public speech and/or one on one speech.~~

Demonstrate proficiency in research skills by:

- Successfully completing basic research on a topic or issue by using library reference materials and by completing a research paper that includes a thorough summary of available information and a logical conclusion based upon the findings.

Demonstrate proficiency in using the scientific method by:

- Successfully completing an original investigation in which steps of the scientific method can be documented.

Demonstrate computer skills by:

- Using application programs to create documents (e.g. writing assignments, research paper, resume, written communications, databases, spreadsheets, graphics.)

REVISED POLICY – 1ST READING – AUGUST 15, 2006Demonstrate First Aid and CPR skills proficiency by:

- Successfully completing a Red Cross or comparable training program.

B. External Learning Experiences

An External Learning Experience is a prescribed educational experience, arranged and approved by appropriate staff, that is conducted external to the regular school curriculum and adequately evaluated and documented by the student. Each student must complete a minimum of 60 clock hours of External Learning Experiences, over three, six week grading sessions in activities approved by the Principal and the Family Unit Leader.

C. Service Learning

To graduate a student shall have completed 20 clock hours of service learning with a charity, health care facility, hospital, public agency, religious organization or school. The requirement shall be completed when the administrator of the agency verifies successful completion in writing.

D. Career Plan/Portfolio

Students must complete a Career Plan which includes a financial plan for further post-secondary training and/or education. Students must also complete a portfolio which includes, but is not limited to, a personal resume, current transcript, a sample letter of application and a minimum of three letters of recommendation.

E. Voter Registration

Students must obtain a voter registration card. A student who is not 18 years of age, must submit a statement in writing that he/she intends to obtain a card and knows where to do so.

F. Credit Hour Requirements

Total Required for Graduation

Carnegie Units

23.00

Credit Hours

230.00

English Studies:

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|-----------------------------------|------|-------|
| • Speech | .25 | 2.50 |
| • Composition/American Literature | .50 | 5.00 |
| • Composition/World Literature | .50 | 5.00 |
| • Composition | 1.00 | 10.00 |
| • English Electives | 1.75 | 17.50 |

Social Studies:

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|----------------------------|------|-------|
| • U. S. History | 1.00 | 10.00 |
| • World History | .50 | 5.00 |
| • Economics | .25 | 2.50 |
| • Government | .25 | 2.50 |
| • Geography | .50 | 5.00 |
| • Psychology or Sociology | .25 | 2.50 |
| • Social Studies Electives | .75 | 7.50 |

Science:

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|--|-----|------|
| • Earth/Environmental Science | .75 | 7.50 |
| • Biology | .75 | 7.50 |
| • Physical Science (Chemistry/Physics) | .75 | 7.50 |
| • Science Electives | .75 | 7.50 |

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Mathematics

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| • Algebra | 1.00 | 10.00 |
| • Geometry | 1.00 | 10.00 |
| • Math Electives | 1.00 | 10.00 |

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| Health Education | .50 | 5.00 |
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|-------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Fine Arts and/or Physical Education | 1.50 | 15.00 |
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|-----------|------|-------|
| Electives | 7.50 | 75.00 |
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(elective credit is awarded for documented time completing the proficiencies, service, experiences and plan listed above (A, B, C, D).

Alternative: The Principal may approve an outcome based program for individual students. These students attain outcomes aligned with Colorado's Content Standards in lieu of completing credit requirements for course work. All of the other graduation requirements must be completed (A, B, C, D, E and G).

~~G. Portfolio of Academic Career and Oral Exit Interview~~

~~Students must maintain a Portfolio of their Academic work at CFAHS and complete an oral exit interview which covers basic knowledge in English, Social Studies, Science and Math. The interview is to be completed with a committee of teachers (minimum of 3). The committee shall review the student's portfolio and interview responses, and make a recommendation to the Principal that the student should be graduated or that the student requires further academic preparation. The interview is to be conducted after the student has completed a minimum of 18 Carnegie Units or 180 credit hours. If a student is completing an Outcome Based Program, 75% of the Outcomes must be attained prior to the oral exit interview.~~

HG. Completion of Requirements

The program of studies at Colorado's Finest Alternative High School is designed to provide maximum opportunity for most students to meet graduation requirements during four years of study. Students requiring more than four years may continue to work toward graduation until they attain the age of 21. At that time, they will be provided information to assist them in working toward a G. E. D. Certificate and other educational opportunities.

HH. Modification and/or Waiver of Requirements

Students may have a specific requirement modified or waived by the Principal to prohibit a discriminatory practice, to remedy an unjust or unreasonable expectation, or to support a change which may result in a higher standard consistent with the student's educational goals. When possible, requirements should be modified rather than being waived. It is the intention of the Board of Education that waivers be made on a very limited basis.

Students who have reached the age of 21 and who have been denied their request for a waiver, may request a waiver of requirements through a Graduation Requirements Appeals Committee. The Committee shall be appointed by the Superintendent but shall minimally include one parent, one teacher, the Principal and the Executive Director of Instruction. The Committee shall recommend to the Superintendent that the waiver be granted or denied. If the Superintendent denies the waiver based upon the recommendation of the committee, the student may request a hearing with the Board of Education. The Board will make a final determination within ten days following the date of the hearing.