

High School Graduation Requirements

Each student who has successfully completed an instructional program appropriate to his/her interests and needs shall be awarded a diploma at graduation ceremonies. The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in the District who meets the requirements of graduation established by the District. The official transcript will indicate the specific courses taken and level of achievement.

The Board shall establish graduation requirements, which as a minimum satisfy those established by the Board of Public Education (10.55.904 & 905). Generally, any change in graduation requirements promulgated by the Board will become effective for the next class to enter 9th grade. Exceptions to this general rule may be made where it is determined by the Board that the proposed change in graduation requirements will not have a negative effect on students already in grades 9-12.

A unit is defined as 225 minutes or more of instruction/week (250 minutes for subjects requiring laboratory work) for one year. The Board shall approve graduation requirements as recommended by the Superintendent.

To graduate from Bigfork High School, a student must have satisfactorily completed the last quarter prior to his/her graduation as a Bigfork High School Student. Highly unusual exceptions may be considered by the principal, such as a student exchange program in a recognized school.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for implementing this policy which include:

1. Recommending course and credit requirements, which satisfy the Board of Public Education requirements and recognize the desires of the citizens of the District.
2. Making graduation requirements available in writing to students, parents and members of the public.
3. Providing for a waiver of graduation requirements for an individual student in conforming with 10.55.906(3).
4. Granting credit for learning experiences conducted away from school, including National Guard high school career training.
5. Granting credit for correspondence and/or college courses.
6. Counseling of students to know what is expected of them for completion of their schooling.
7. Preparing a list of students for the information of the Board and release to the public.
8. Preparing suitable diplomas for graduating seniors.

9. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies.

A student who possesses a handicapping condition shall satisfy those competency requirements, which are incorporated into the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated into the IEP shall serve as the basis for determining completion of a course.

A student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be awarded after the official ceremony has been held.

Graduation requirements will be as follows:

General Diploma

1 unit = 1 credit

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of Math
- 2 units of Science (one of which must be a lab science)
- 3 units of Social Studies
 - U.S. History
 - U.S. Government/Economics
 - World History
- 1 unit of Physical Education
- .5 unit of Health
- 6.5 units of Elective Classes
- 1 unit of Fine Arts
- 1 unit of Vocational Education
- 1 unit of Freshman Experience

23 units will be required for graduation

Honors Graduation Requirements

- 4 units of English
- 4 units of Math- Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II or higher
- 3 units of Science- Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics or Anatomy or higher
- The rest is the same as general diploma requirements

25 total units will be required for graduation

Class of 2027 and beyond (starts with 2024-25 Sophomore class)

Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher

Valedictorian and Salutatorian can only come from the Honors Diploma

In addition:

- a. Handicapped students who successfully complete their Individual Educational Program (IEP) will be granted a general diploma.

- b.Students transferring into Bigfork High may have some local requirements waived if necessary and approved by the Bigfork High School Principal.

Bigfork Digital High School Graduation Requirements

A student's digital educational program must meet the graduation requirements of the general diploma. Correspondence courses offered through the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) and Virtual High School (VHS) will serve as the primary courses approved. The MTDA and VHS courses may be substituted per approval under Board Policy 2167, at the discretion of the principal who shall ensure equivalent course content.

The student seeking to fulfill the Bigfork Digital High School graduation requirements must first discuss his/her plans with the school counselor. The counselor will meet with the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) to review available MTDA/VHS course offerings. The completed graduation course schedule and online registration confirmation will be submitted to the principal.

Bigfork Digital High School students must pay an administrative fee per school year before enrollment begins. Families may petition the High School Principal for a hardship scholarship. This administrative fee is non-refundable.

Cross Reference:	3300	Corrective Actions
	2167	Correspondence Courses
	2130	Program Evaluation
Legal Reference:	20-5-201, MCA	Duties and Sanctions
	20-7-115, MCA	Private Music Instruction
	10.55.412(2-6), ARM	Basic Instruction Program
	10.55.410(4), ARM	Special Education: Minimum Requirements

Policy History:

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