

West Ada School District

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
Series 600

Policy Title: High School Diploma and Graduation Ceremony

Policy No. 603.21

Once students meet the district's graduation requirements as outlined, they will receive a diploma. When students receive a diploma, their public education ends and they are no longer eligible to receive special education services.

Early Graduation/Participation in Ceremonies

Students may apply to the Superintendent, or designee, to graduate early and participate in graduation ceremonies providing they have completed the required courses and have met the necessary credit and proficiency requirements in fewer than eight (8) semesters but in not less than six (6) semesters. Students who have been granted early graduation may participate in graduation exercises provided they notify school officials at least two weeks (2) weeks before graduation ceremonies.

Graduation Ceremony Participation

Students who are full time both semesters of their senior year and have completed the required courses and have met the necessary credit, attendance, (district policy 501.10), and proficiency requirements as stated are eligible to participate in graduation exercises. Those students who have not fulfilled all graduation requirements as stated may not participate in the graduation exercise. Students that have met the necessary credit and proficiency requirements as stated, but are not full time students both semesters (district policy 501.10) may apply for an exception to the Superintendent, or designee, in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students who have been granted the exception to participate in graduation exercises must notify school officials at least two weeks (2) weeks before graduation ceremonies. Students who drop out of their home high school and complete the second semester of their senior year in summer school, correspondence courses, or online courses will be eligible to receive a diploma from West Ada School District, but will not be eligible to participate in the graduation exercise.

Rebound School Diplomas and Exercise Participation

Students who have dropped out of one of our high schools and complete the necessary course work at Rebound will receive a Rebound diploma. A graduation ceremony will be held once per semester.

Grade Point Average & Class Rank Information

The class ranking for graduating seniors will be determined using the following formula: Un-weighted GPA + # of **Advanced Placement (AP)** (includes Calculus II) or International Baccalaureate Higher Level (IB-HL) classes x .02 = class ranking. In accordance with International Baccalaureate assessment allowances, no more than four (4) International Baccalaureate Higher Level courses may be weighted in the calculation of a student's GPA.

Associate's Degree

Students with a 4.0 who have earned an Associate's Degree from an accredited institution will be added to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class.

Honors Student Defined

Commencing with the graduating class of 2009, Honor students will be those who meet the following GPA requirements on their transcripts for any class for which high school credits were earned. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate (Higher Level) courses are graded on a 5-point scale (includes Calculus II).

- A. Highest Honors 4.1-5.0 (or students with a 4.0 who have earned an Associate's Degree from an accredited institution) both high school colors
- B. High Honors 3.77-4.099 both cords Silver CHS, EHS, & MVHS, Gold for MHS, RHS, and RMHS.
- C. Honors 3.5-3.7699 both cords Maroon for CHS, Green for EHS, Blue for MHS & MVHS; Purple for RMHS; Crimson for RHS

The honor of wearing cords is reserved for academic achievement, including National Honor Society. Stoles can be worn by students earning an Associate's degree or students who have met the requirements for the full IB diploma.

For the purposes of printing graduation exercise recognition materials, assigning honor cords, and choosing graduation speakers, student grades and GPA calculations will end the first Monday of May. The complete academic year will be recorded on the student's final high school transcript.

Graduation Ceremony Speakers

Students will be honored with highest honors, high honors and honors. Two (2) students from the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class will be asked to deliver addresses during the graduation exercise. The graduating class will select the two representatives by vote with administrative approval.

Date of Revision:

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8/14/12; 10/08/12; 12/18/12

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10/14/14; 4/26/17; 01/15/19

Legal References: Idaho Code