

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees that students who graduate from St. Maries High School will complete courses of instruction for a total of fifty-one (51) semester credits or twenty-five and one-half (25.5) units. A student must also show proficiency on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) or successfully fulfill the District-developed alternative routes to the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).

To graduate from St. Maries High School, a student must have satisfactorily completed four (4) years of attendance in grades nine through twelve (9-12).

One semester of a credited class equals one credit. Students will be scheduled for *seven periods a day*. One of which may be a peer study.

Effective with the graduating class of 2013, the minimum graduation requirement for St. Maries High School shall be as follows:

English	8 credits
**Mathematics	6 credits
Science	6 credits
Physical Education	4 credits
Speech (9th Grade)	1 credit
Humanities (2 may be vocational)	4 credits
Intro to Keyboarding (9th grade)	1 credit
World Cultures (10th grade)	2 credits
U.S. History (11th grade)	2 credits
Health (9th grade)	1 credit
Economics/Personal Finance (11th grade)	2 credits
U.S. Government (12th grade)	2 credits
Electives	<u>12 credits</u>
TOTAL	51 CREDITS

**Two (2) of the six (6) math credits must be earned in the last year of high school in which the student intends to graduate. For purposes of this Policy, the last year of high school shall include the summer preceding the fall start of classes. Students who return to school during the summer or the following fall of the next year for less than a full schedule of courses due to failing to pass a course other than math are not required to retake a math course as long as they have earned six (6) credits of high school level math.

For all students entering public schools at the ninth (9th) grade level in the Fall of 2009 or later, those students, unless otherwise exempted must:

1. Earn fifty-one (51) credits, pass all required classes, achieve a proficient or advanced score on the high school Idaho Standards Achievement Test as defined by State Board Rules; or

2. Successfully fulfill the District-developed alternatives to the proficiency requirements of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDIT

If a middle school student completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher before entering the ninth (9th) grade, and if that course meets the same standards that are required in high school, then the student has met the high school content area requirement for such course. However, the student still must complete the required number of credits in all high school core subjects identified above in addition to the courses completed in middle school, unless the student is a participant in the 6 in 8 Program.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

A student must take one of the following college entrance or placement examinations before the end of the student's eleventh (11th) grade year: COMPASS, ACT, or SAT.

A student may elect an exemption in their eleventh (11th) grade year from the college entrance exam requirement if the student is:

1. Enrolled in a special education program and has an Individual Education Plan that specifies accommodations not allowed for a reportable score on the approved tests;
2. Enrolled in a Limited English Proficient program for three (3) academic years or less;
3. Enrolled for the first time in twelfth (12th) grade at an Idaho high school after the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam; or
4. Eligible to take an alternative assessment. In this case the student may instead take the ACCUPLACER placement exam during their senior year.

A student who misses the statewide administration of the college exam during the student's eleventh (11th) grade year may instead take the examination during his or her twelfth (12th) grade year if the student:

1. Transferred to an Idaho school district during his or her eleventh (11th) grade year;
2. Was homeschooled during his or her eleventh (11th) grade year; or
3. Missed the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam for a documented medical reason.

IDAHO STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT TESTS (ISAT)

In addition to obtaining the necessary credits as outlined above, a student will show proficiency on the Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) as defined by State Board of Education rules. Students who receive a proficient or advanced score on the tenth (10th) grade ISAT while in ninth (9th) grade may bank the score for purposes of meeting their graduation requirements. Students who do not attain at least a proficient score on the Idaho Student Achievement Test will have the option of appealing to the Board of Trustees for relief from the ISAT proficiency requirement. Students who choose to appeal must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must be enrolled in a special education program and have a current Individual Education Plan; or
2. Must be enrolled in a Limited English Proficiency Program; or
3. Must be enrolled in the fall semester of the senior year.

The District requires that all students who appeal from relief of the ISAT proficiency requirements must successfully complete an alternative program equivalent to the ISAT requirement approved by the Board of Trustees in order to graduate.

The District program that students must use to demonstrate that they possess the skills and knowledge necessary to graduate from St. Maries High School is as follows:

1. Successfully complete performance measures that are equivalent to the sub skills areas measured in the ISAT; and/or
2. Successfully complete multiple factors that evaluate academic proficiency and performance of an individual student. These factors should include:
 - A. Grade point average;
 - B. Assessment scores including ISAT reading, ISAT math, ISAT language arts, or literacy assessment;
 - C. Performance assessment measures, as appropriate, or other performance entries included in a student's portfolio;
 - D. Other professional/institutional evaluations, including end-of-course assessments, senior projects, community service, work experience, attendance and work ethics documented at school site.

The District alternative programs are aligned to State content standards and are based on academic proficiency and performance.

SENIOR PROJECT

Beginning with the Class of 2013, all students must satisfactorily complete a Senior Project that includes a research paper and oral presentation by the end of twelfth (12th) grade as determined by the Board of Trustees.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

Students who use an alternative route must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must have been, or be, enrolled in a special education program with a valid Individual Education Program (IEP);
2. Must be enrolled in a Limited English Proficiency Program; or
3. Must be enrolled in the fall semester of the senior year.

All students who use alternative routes must successfully complete alternative program equivalent to the ISAT requirement approved by the Board of Trustees in order to graduate.

The District will accept two (2) alternative routes to graduation.

1. The first alternative route requires students to meet local graduation requirements and demonstrate comparable proficiency through the use of Idaho PLATO Learning Network (IPLN) which is aligned with Idaho Curriculum Standards.
2. The second alternative route requirement constitutes students acquiring three hundred (300) points in some combination on a District-approved assessment matrix.

The District's alternative routes for graduation are aligned to State curriculum content standards and are based on academic proficiency and performance.

Those students who will graduate in 2016 and thereafter who have not received a proficient or advanced score on the ISAT in ninth (9th) grade will be required to complete an alternative plan for graduation, as designed by the District, including all elements required by State law and administrative rules. The student may enter the alternate path prior to his or her senior year.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In addition to the above-referenced avenues to graduation, students with disabilities who have or have had a valid Individual Education Plan (IEP) according to Idaho State Rules and Regulations for Special Education may demonstrate proficiency according to the

guidelines of the Idaho Department of Education's Idaho Students with Disabilities Graduation Decision Guidance, dated March 1, 2004. Final decisions and determinations about proficiency and graduation in these cases will always be guided and finalized by the "Child Study Team".

Students with disabilities shall satisfy those competency requirements which are incorporated into the Individual Education Program (IEP). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated into the IEP shall serve as the basis for determining completion of courses and the requirements for graduation.

EXTERNAL CREDITS

1. Classes offered over the Internet will be accepted for credit if they are from a school accredited through an affiliate of AdvancED Accreditation. A limit of six (6) Internet credits will be allowed.
2. Six (6) credits will be accepted as correspondence courses such as from American School, University of Idaho, or other school designated by the Board of Trustees.
3. Students entering from a non-accredited high school will not be allowed credit in subjects completed in a non-accredited school.
4. Seventy (70) hours of documented volunteer school/community activities will be allowed for one (1) elective credit.

*Any deviations will be approved and documented by the building principal.

EARLY GRADUATION

A student who completes all of the graduation requirements set forth by the District and the Idaho State Department of Education prior to the completion of eight (8) semesters of school attendance in grades 9-12 may petition the Superintendent and Board of Trustees for early graduation by submitting such a petition to the Superintendent through the building principal. The Superintendent shall submit the petition to the Board of Trustees for endorsement and approval at the end of the quarter preceding the requested graduation date.

The Superintendent is authorized to create any procedures necessary to assist students to achieve early graduation as well as create incentives for participation in any early graduation program. Existing programs providing incentives to complete coursework early are described in Board Policy 602.10 – Advanced Opportunities.

GRADUATION EXERCISES

Graduation will be set by the Board of Trustees each year, upon the recommendation of the high school principal and the Superintendent.

Graduating seniors will pay for their own caps and gowns.

Policy Cross Reference:

Board Policy 602.08	Community Service Credit
Board Policy 602.10	Advanced Opportunities

Legal Reference:

IDAPA 08.02.03.105	High School Graduation Requirements
IDAPA 08.02.03.107	High School Graduation Standards

Policy History:

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