

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Regular Education

A minimum of twenty-one (21) units of credit are required for graduation. Listed below are the units that must be completed before a student may receive a high school diploma. Each student shall demonstrate accomplishment of the essential skills in reading, writing, science, social studies and mathematics adopted by the State Board of Education and pass each of the sections of the required competency test. A student not successfully passing the competency test shall graduate with a recognized diploma if the student meets the alternative graduation requirements established by A.R. S. 15-701.02 The Superintendent shall prepare regulations to implement the alternative graduation requirements and appoint a hearing officer for appeals.

Graduation requirements may be met as follows:

- By successful completion of subject area course requirements.
- By mastery of the standards adopted by the State Board of Education and other competency requirements for the subject as determined by the Governing Board in accord with A.A.C. R7-2-302.04 and rules established by the Superintendent.
- By earning credits through correspondence courses (limited to one (1) in each of the four (4) major subject areas) and/or by passing appropriate courses at the college or university level if the courses are determined to meet standards and criteria establish by the Board and in accord with A.R.S. 15-701.01.

Graduation requirements by year of graduation are:

2009-2010 through 2011-2012

English	4.0 credits
Math	3.0 credits
Science	2.0 credits
United States and Arizona History	1.0 credits
United States and Arizona Government	0.5 credits
World History and Geography	1.0 credits
Economics.....	0.5 credits
Physical Education.....	1.0 credits
Arts (Fine or Practical).....	1.0 credits
<u>Electives</u>	<u>7.0 credits</u>
Total	21.0 credits

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2012-2013 and there after

English	4.0 credits
Math	4.0 credits*
Science	3.0 credits
United States and Arizona History	1.0 credits
United States and Arizona Government	0.5 credits
World History and Geography	1.0 credits
Economics.....	0.5 credits
Physical Education.....	1.0 credits
Fine Arts or Career, Technical and Vocational Education.....	1.0 credits
<u>Electives.....</u>	<u>7.0 credits</u>
Total	23.0 credits

Note: Each semester course will carry one-half (0.5) credit.

Course requirements are:

- **English** (4credits): This requirement must be met by completing one credit each of English 9, English 10, English 11 and English 12 or options that satisfy the requirement.
- **Math** (4 credits): Mathematics requirements by year of graduation:
 - 2009-2012 (3 credits)
Two of the three math credits must be earned in Algebra I, and Geometry, the additional course can be determined by the District.
 - 2012-2013 and there after
Three of the four math credits must consist of a Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (or its equivalent), the additional course can be determined by the District
*In lieu of one (1) credit of Algebra II or its equivalent course content a student may request a personal curriculum in mathematics following R7-2-302.03
- **Science** (3 credits): Science requirements by year of graduation:
 - 2009-2012 (2 credits)
This requirement can be met by earning 2 credits in any science course. Science courses shall prepare students for the high school AIMS test (life science) Credit can also be earned by taking designated courses in the Agricultural Education department.
 - 2012-2013 and thereafter (3 credits)
This requirement can be met by earning 3 credits in any science course. Science courses shall prepare students for the high school AIMS test (life science) Credit can also be earned by taking designated courses in the Agricultural Education department.
- **Social Studies** (3 credits): This requirement must be met by earning one credit of World History and Geography, one credit of US/Arizona History, one-half (0.5) credit of US/Arizona Government and one-half (0.5) credit

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of Economics. Economics credit can also be earned by taking one-credit of Marketing or two credits of Agriscience.

- **Physical Education** (1 credit): This requirement can be met by successfully completing one credit in physical education course or two credits of Marching Band. The Wellness & Nutrition and Athletic Injury Training courses do not meet this requirement.
- **Art (Fine or Practical)** (1 credit): This requirement can be met by earning one credit in either the Fine or Practical Arts. The Fine Arts include Visual and Performing Arts and the Practical Arts include the Career and Technical Education programs.
- **Electives** (7 credits): This requirement can be met by successfully completing any seven credits of elective course offerings. Starting with the graduating year 2011-2012 students may only earn one (1) of their elective credits through a student aide position.

Competency Requirements: Students shall meet all competencies as outlined in the Arizona Academic Standards and measured by the Arizona Instrument to Measured Standards (AIMS).

Distance Learning Credits: Students currently enrolled in Queen Creek Unified School District (QCUSD) are allowed up to three total distance learning/correspondence credits toward their graduation requirements. An appeal for additional distance learning/correspondence credits may be filed with the Superintendent or designee. Students may earn distance learning credits with the following additional restrictions:

- Courses must be taken at an accredited institution.
- Freshmen and sophomores cannot use distance learning to replace courses that have been designated for state mandated testing.
- Students who have taken the AIMS test and have received their results will not be able to accelerate their academic schedule through distance learning unless they have met the standards for the area in which they wish to accelerate.
- Distant Learning grades are non-weighted.

Transfer Students

In accordance with Queen Creek Unified School District (QCUSD) policy, transfer students must attain at least three (3) credits from the QCUSD high school where they intend to graduate, or file an appeal for graduation consideration with the principal.

Special Education

Listed above, under “Regular Education,” are the requirements that must be completed before a student may receive a high school diploma. Completion of graduation requirements for special education students who do not meet the required units of credit shall be determined on a case-by case basis in accordance with the special education course of study and the individualized education program of the student. Graduation requirements established by the Governing Board may be met by a student as defined in A.R.S. 15-701.01 and A.A.C. R7-2-302.

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Competency Requirements: Any student who is placed in special education classes, grades nine (9) through twelve (12), is eligible to receive a high school diploma without meeting state competency requirements, but reference to special education placement may be placed on the student's transcript of permanent file.

LEGAL REF: A.R.S. 15-203

15-341

15-701-01

15-701.02

A.A.C. R7-2-302.01

R7-2-302.02

R7-2-302.03

R7-2-302.04

R7-2-302.06

R7-2-302.07

CROSS REF: IGD – Curriculum Adoption

IGE – Curriculum Guides and Course Outlines

IIE – Student Schedules and Course Loads

IKA – Grading/Assessment Systems