

STUDENT PERSONNEL

Series 500

POLICY TITLE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

No. 505.5

Students are eligible for graduation upon successfully completing 25 required academic credits as follows:

Required Units for Graduation (25 credits)

English	4 credits
Math	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 ½ credits
Financial Literacy	½ credit
Physical Education	2 credits (0.25 credit each semester)
Health Education	½ credit
Electives	8 ½ credits
Total	25 credits

See Course Selection Handbooks for specific course requirements and credit information.

Drivers' Education does not count as a credit toward graduation.

GRADUATION

Students classified as seniors may plan on graduation. Seniors who have developed a plan, accepted and approved by the Johnston High School administration for fulfilling Johnston High School graduation requirements in the summer following their senior year, may participate in commencement ceremonies.

Any student who has met the requirements for graduation and who follows the rules set by the administration for the ceremony will be allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies. If, for any reason, a student fails to participate in commencement ceremonies, the student shall still receive his or her final progress report and diploma for completion of graduation requirements.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AT-RISK

Required Units for Graduation (18 credits)

English	4 credits
Math	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 ½ credits
Financial Literacy	½ credit
Physical Education	2 credits
Health Education	½ credit
Electives	2 ½ credits
Total	18 credits

Enrollment in the Johnston At-Risk Graduation Program.

To request enrollment to Johnston At-Risk Graduation Program a student must be in their third year of high school and be deemed credit deficient by the Building Assistance Team. A request to enroll in the program is to be made to the principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, or at-risk coordinator. Following the request, a meeting of the Building Assistance Team will be held to determine if enrollment in the program is in the student's best interest. The High School Principal must approve any deviation from the above listed criteria.

Upon acceptance, the student and their JHS guidance counselor will develop an Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP). The student, their guidance counselor, and the Johnston high school principal will sign the graduation plan. If the student is under the age of 18, the student's parent/guardian must also sign the IGP. This IGP will be used to monitor student progress toward meeting high school graduation requirements. If the student attends Metro West, his/her IGP may be developed by the Director/Counselor in coordination with the JHS counselor. A student, who no longer attends JHS, will work with a DMACC advisor in coordination with the JHS counselor to develop the IGP. Based upon administrative discretion, special consideration for enrollment may occur on an individual case basis.

Any student who has met the requirements for graduation and who follows the rules set by the administration for the ceremony will be allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies. If for any reason, a student fails to participate in commencement ceremonies, the student shall still receive his or her final progress report and diploma for completion of graduation requirements. Students enrolled in the Johnston At-Risk Graduation Program will not be included in the class rankings.

- Credits from JHS, Metro West, DMACC, correspondence classes, summer school, and other approved classes will count toward credits for the Johnston At-Risk Graduation Program.
- Options for alternative credit will be considered and implemented as deemed appropriate by administrative staff. These alternatives may include computer-based instruction and supervised independent study courses.

Prior to graduation, the district will advise students on how to successfully complete the free application for federal student aid.

Graduation requirements for special education students include successful completion of four years of English, three years of math, three and a half years of social studies, and three years of science.

Students who complete a regular session in the Legislative Page Program of the general assembly at the state capitol will be credited ½ credit of social studies.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.7,11; .41; 279.8; 279.61; 280.3, .14.
281 I.A.C. 12.3, (5); 12.5 .

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement
603.3 Special Education

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