

# SD High School Graduation Requirements

As approved by the South Dakota Board of Education Nov. 2, 2009

Except where otherwise noted, these requirements begin with students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2010-11 school year.

A Student's Personal Learning Plan must document a minimum of 22 credits that include the following:

- |                                                                            |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| (1.) Four units of Language Arts – must include:                           | (4.) Three units of Social Studies - must include:  |
| a. Writing – 1.5 units                                                     | a. U.S. History – 1 unit                            |
| b. Literature – 1.5 units<br>(must include .5 unit of American Literature) | b. U.S. Government - .5 unit                        |
| c. Speech or Debate - .5 units                                             | c. World History - .5 unit                          |
| d. Language Arts elective - .5 units                                       | d. Geography - .5 unit                              |
| <br>                                                                       |                                                     |
| (2.) Three units of Mathematics – must include:                            | (5.) ~One unit of the following-any combination:    |
| a. Algebra I – 1 unit                                                      | a. Approved Career & Technical Education            |
| b. *Algebra II – 1 unit                                                    | b. Capstone Experience or Service Learning          |
| c. *Geometry – 1 unit                                                      | c. World Language                                   |
| <br>                                                                       |                                                     |
| (3.) Three units of Lab Science – must include:                            | (6.) One unit of ^ Fine Arts                        |
| a. Biology – 1 unit                                                        | (7.) One-half unit of Personal Finance or Economics |
| b. Any Physical Science – 1 unit                                           | (8.) One-half unit of Physical Education            |
| c. *Chemistry or Physics – 1 unit                                          | (9.) ~One-half unit of Health or Health Integration |

\*With school and parent/guardian approval, a student may be excused from this course in favor of a more appropriate course. A student may be excused from Algebra II or Geometry, but not both. A student is still required to take three units of Math. If a student is excused from Chemistry or Physics, the student must still take three units of Lab Science.

~Required beginning Sept. 1, 2013

In regards to the health requirement: Beginning with students who are freshmen in the fall of 2013, students will be required to take .5 unit of health at any time grades 6-12. A district may choose to integrate health across the curriculum at the middle or high school level in lieu of a stand-alone course.

^Local decision. A district may decide to offer credit for extracurricular Fine Arts activities. Students may be granted up to one credit in Fine Arts for participation in extracurricular activities. A maximum of ¼ credit may be granted for each activity in each school year.

**The Wall Board of Education requirements include the above, but require that students take ½ unit of Senior Experience and 1 unit each of Geography, World History, & U.S. Government. If students take a dual credit U.S. Government course in the fall (earning 3 college credits and 1 unit of social science credit towards high school graduation) they will be required to take another advanced or dual credit course the spring semester if they choose not to take the WHS U.S. Government course spring semester (which covers SD History).**