

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS POLICY - BMS

The Board of Trustees of Mountain Home School District is committed to maintaining rigorous curriculum and performance standards designed to promote student achievement. Toward that end, all students graduating from Mountain Home School District will meet the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE), Mountain Home School District, and Bennett Mountain School’s (BMS) graduation requirements or alternative graduation requirements. BMS will offer a variety of courses to satisfy state and local graduation requirements, including instructional offerings in Physical Education and Career Technical Education (CTE). Students must be enrolled for a minimum of one (1) credit during one of the four blocks of study of their senior year to participate in the graduation ceremony and to receive a Bennett Mountain School diploma.

STANDARDS FOR GRADUATION

The Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE) and Mountain Home School District has established that all students graduating from Bennett Mountain School must meet the following requirements:

1. **LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS:** A student must meet locally established subject area achievement standards as demonstrated through various measures of accountability including examinations or other measures. The local standards must meet or exceed the standards set by the state.

Definition: Credit – Successful completion of one block = 1 credit.

2. **GRADUATING STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING BLOCK CREDITS:**

<u>English</u>	8 credits
<u>Speech</u>	1 credit
<u>Mathematics</u>	6 credits
<u>Science</u>	6 credits
<u>Economics</u>	1 credit
<u>Humanities</u>	2 credits
<u>Social Studies</u>	4 credits
<u>Health</u>	1 credit
<u>Electives:</u>	17 credits

TOTAL**46 credits**

(See Graduation Requirements Procedure 2a – BMS for detailed explanation of credits)

Note: No credit will be received when repeating a class if previous credit was earned. The higher grade earned will be used to calculate the GPA.

and

CIVICS TEST: All secondary students must show they have met the state civics and government standards for such instruction through the successful completion of the civics test United States Citizenship Test. The district may establish an alternate path for determining if a student has met the state civics and government content standards. Alternate paths are open to all students in grades 7-12. Any student who has been determined proficient in the state civics and government content standards either through the completion of the civics test or an alternate path will have it noted on the student's high school transcript. A student may take the civics test, in whole or in part, any time after enrolling in the 7th grade and may repeat the test as often as necessary to pass the test.

"Civics Test" means the one hundred (100) questions used by officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services as a basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order that the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and the principles and form of United States government, as required by 8 U.S.C. section 1423.

Assessment of standards shall be included as part of the course at the secondary level. The school district may determine the method and manner in which to administer the civics test. A school district shall document on the student's transcript that the student has passed the civics test.

The applicability of this subsection to a student who receives special education services shall be governed by such student's individualized education plan.

The civics test may be taken in whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade 7 and it may be repeated as often as necessary for the student to pass the test.

and

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION: All students must take a college entrance examination before the end of the student's eleventh (11th) grade.

1. A student who missed the statewide administration of the college exam during the student's 11th grade may take the examination during the student's 12th grade to meet this requirement, if the student:

- a. Transferred to the District during the student's 11th grade and has not previously participated in one of the allowed college entrance exams outlined above;
 - b. Was homeschooled during the student's 11th grade and is enrolled in an Idaho high school as a diploma seeking student; or
 - c. Missed the spring statewide administration of the college entrance exam dates for documented medical reasons.
2. A student may elect an exemption in the 11th grade from the college entrance exam requirements, if the student is:
- a. Enrolled in a special education program and has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that specifies the student meets the alternate assessment eligibility criteria or the student receiving special education services through a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
 - b. Enrolled in an English Learner (EL) program for three (3) academic years or less; or
 - c. Transferring from out of state to an Idaho high school in 12th grade.
 - d. This school district may, on behalf of a student, on a form established by the State Department of Education, submit an appeal application requesting the Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designee consider another college entrance exam or college placement exam to fulfill this requirement, or exempt the student due to extenuating circumstances.

and

SENIOR PROJECT: A student must complete a senior project that include a written report and oral presentation by the end of the student's 12th grade year.

3. **TRANSFER CREDITS FROM TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS**

The Board recognizes that mobility can affect a student's educational program. To meet the Mountain Home School District's graduation requirements, transfer credits from other secondary schools will be accepted provided:

- a. The sending school is an accredited high school with membership in the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges or its approved counterparts in other states; or
- b. The sending school is an accredited high school with membership in the National Association of Private Schools; or

- c. The sending school is a high school approved by the Idaho State Department of Education and passes a Standards review as determined by the high school principal and/or the superintendent, or designee. The administration shall accept transfer credits from any home study, home instructional program, or private school that meets the above standards and is approved by the Idaho State Department of Education.

4. TRANSFER CREDITS FROM CORRESPONDENCE / VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

The Mountain Home School District will accept credits toward high school graduation from any accredited correspondence or virtual high school course, provided the credits were earned in grades 9 through 12.

- a. All courses taken through any accredited correspondence and/or virtual high school will be included in the student’s transcript no matter if the course was passed or not and will be averaged into the student’s GPA.

5. HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT PRIOR TO GRADE NINE (I.C. 33-512C)

Graduation Credits:

- 1. Credits applied to the Mountain Home School District’s graduation requirements must be earned in grades 9 through 12.
- 2. Credits will be awarded to any student who completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher before entering grade nine (9), if the following criteria are met:
 - The course meets the same standards that are required in high school;
 - The course is taught by a properly certified teacher who meets the federal definition of being highly qualified for the course being taught; and
 - The school providing the course is accredited as recognized by the Idaho State Board of Education.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student’s grade and the number of credit hours assigned to the course will be transferred to the student’s high school transcript. The student’s parent or guardian will be notified in advance when credits are going to be transcribed and may elect to not have the credits and grade transferred to the student’s high school transcript.

- Courses taken in the junior high school or middle school appearing in the student’s high school transcript will count for the purpose of high school graduation. However, the student must complete the required number of credits in all high school core subjects as identified in this policy and IDAPA 08.02.03.105. The

transcribing high school will verify the course meets the requirements set forth above.

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As a condition of issuance of a diploma or certificate, or as a condition for issuance of a transcript, all indebtedness incurred by a person when he or she was a student must be paid. Furthermore, all books, or other instructional material, uniforms, athletic equipment, advances on loans, or other personal property of the school district borrowed by the person when he or she was a student of the district must be returned. The payment of fees may be excused upon an adequate showing of financial need or another exigency.

CREDIT CALCULATION

Credits toward graduation requirements cannot be counted more than once for meeting the minimum requirements.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Sections

18-4511 – School Duties – Records of Missing Child – Identification upon Enrollment – Transfer of Student Records

33-119 – Accreditation of Secondary Schools – Standards for Elementary Schools

33-512C – Encouragement of Gifted Students

33-603 – Payment of Fees or Returning of Property

33-1601, *et seq.* – Instruction in English Language

Title 33, Chapter 55 Idaho Digital Learning Academy

IDAPA 08.02.01.350 – Early Graduation

IDAPA 08.02.03.104 – Middle Level Credit System

IDAPA 08.02.03.105.06 – High School Graduation Requirements – Proficiency

IDAPA 08.02.03.107 – High School Graduation Standards

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