



## *Southwest Open School*

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### **Southwest Open School Graduation Requirements (Beginning with the class of 2026)**

Adopted:10/9/23

Revised:

In pursuit of the mission of Southwest Open School (SWOS) to create a community of learners who utilize experiential education in developing and nurturing high academic, character, and health standards the SWOS community understands the significance of allowing students to be given the opportunity to choose which graduation pathway best suites their individual career and academic plans.

#### **Purpose**

It is the policy of SWOS to allow students to choose which graduation pathway to pursue. To receive a high school diploma from Southwest Open School, students must meet or exceed the school's academic and character education standards and measures required by this policy.

#### **College and career readiness**

The Colorado State Board of Education has adopted state graduation guidelines that identify college and career readiness measures in English and Math. The SWOS Board has selected its own measure from these state graduation guidelines. All students must complete a capstone project which demonstrates college and career readiness in English and Math. A capstone is the culminating exhibition of a student's project or experience that demonstrates academic and intellectual learning. Capstone projects are district determined and often include a portfolio of a student's best work.

#### **Exceptions to the Board's required measures and criteria**

If a student has demonstrated college and career readiness by completing an assessment or other measure that is not included in this policy but is included in the state graduation guidelines, the director or

director's designee may determine that such assessment or other measure is acceptable and meets the district's graduation requirements.

### **Units of Credit and Courses required for Graduation**

There are three diploma options that SWOS graduates can achieve including the Honors Diploma, Standard Diploma, and Career & Technical Diploma. The SWOS Board's approved units of credit for each are listed below.

#### **Academic Diploma**

- English - 4 Credits
- Math - 4 Credits
- Social Studies - 4 Credits (2 History, 1 Geography, 1 Government)
- Science - 3 Credits
- Physical Education - 1 Credits
- Health - 0.5 Credits
- SWOSology - 0.5 Credits
- Service - 0.5 Credits
- Speech - 0.5 Credits
- Academic Elective - 2 Credits
- Electives - 4 Credits
  - 24 Credits Total

#### **Standard Diploma**

- English - 4 Credits
- Math - 3 Credits
- Social Studies - 3 Credits (1 History, 1 Geography, 1 Government)
- Science - 2 Credits
- Physical Education - 1 Credits
- Health - 0.5 Credits
- SWOSology - 0.5 Credits
- Service - 0.5 Credits
- Speech - 0.5 Credits
- Academic Elective - 2 Credits
- Electives - 6 Credits
  - 23 Credits Total

## **Workforce Readiness Diploma**

- English - 4 Credits
- Math - 3 Credits
- Social Studies - 3 Credits (1 History, 1 Geography, 1 Government)
- Science - 2 Credits
- Physical Education - 1 Credits
- Health - 0.5 Credits
- SWOSology - 0.5 Credits
- Service - 0.5 Credits
- Speech - 0.5 Credits
- Internship/Apprenticeship - 1 Credit
- Workforce Readiness Elective - 2 Credits
- Electives - 6 Credits
  - 24 Credits Total

### **Credits from other institutions and home-based programs**

Students entering from outside the district must meet the school's course requirements. The director's or director's designee shall determine whether credit toward course requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the district. In accordance with applicable state law, college courses completed pursuant to the student's participation in a "dropout recovery program" shall count as credit toward completion of the school's credit requirements.

### **Early graduation**

The SWOS Board of Education believes that most students benefit from four years of high school experience. However, in some cases, students are ready for postsecondary education or other opportunities prior to completing four years of high school. Therefore, the director or designee will grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all district graduation requirement in accordance with this policy