

Montana Rules

Graduation and Credit Requirements

10.55.805 SPECIAL EDUCATION

(1) Each district shall provide educational programs and services to students eligible to receive special education services as identified under IDEA.

(2) Each district shall comply with all federal and state laws and regulations addressing special education.

(3) Each district shall provide structured support and assistance to regular education teachers in identifying and meeting the diverse needs of students receiving special education services.

(4) A student eligible to receive special education services as identified under IDEA and who has successfully completed the goals identified on an individualized education program for high school completion shall be awarded a diploma.

10.55.906 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

(1) A high school shall require a minimum of 20 units of credit for graduation, including ninth grade units.

(a) A unit of credit is defined as the equivalent of at least 8100 minutes for one year.

(b) Passage of time between classes may be counted toward the standard school day but shall not be counted toward class time.

(2) A student who is unable to attend class for the required amount of time may be given fractional credit for partial completion of a course, with the local board of trustees' permission.

(3) The local board of trustees may waive specific course requirements based on individual student needs and performance levels. Waiver requests shall also be considered with respect to age, maturity, interest, and aspirations of the students and shall be in consultation with the parents or guardians.

(4) With the permission of the local board of trustees, a student may be given credit for a course satisfactorily completed in a period of time shorter or longer than normally required and, provided that the course meets the district's curriculum and assessment requirements, which are aligned with the content standards stated in the education program. Examples of acceptable course work include those delivered through correspondence, extension, and distance learning courses, adult education, summer school, work study, specially designed courses, and challenges to current courses. Acceptable programs must be consistent with the local board of trustees' policy.

(a) Montana high schools shall accept such units of credit taken with the approval of the accredited Montana high school in which the student was then enrolled and which appear on the student's official high school transcript as defined in ARM 10.55.911. History: 20-2-114, MCA; IMP, 20-2-121, 20-3-106, 20-7-101, MCA; NEW, 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; AMD, 1998 MAR p. 2707, Eff. 10/9/98; AMD, 2000 MAR p. 3340, Eff. 12/8/00; AMD, 2012 MAR p. 2042, Eff. 7/1/13; AMD, 2013 MAR p. 961, Eff. 6/7/13.

10.16.3345 LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

(1) The local educational agency shall have procedures to ensure continuation of a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities when promoting the student from preschool to elementary school and from elementary school to junior high or middle school and from junior high or middle school to high school.

(2) Whenever a student with disabilities is receiving special education and related services in a nongraded program and the student is age 14 on or before September 10th of the school year, the responsibility for ensuring a free appropriate public education changes from the elementary local educational agency to the high school local educational agency.

(3) Chronological age and physical development should be strong factors in the decision to move a student from the junior high or middle school to the high school. Consideration also must be given to the least restrictive environment principle in planning for promotion.

(4) A student with disabilities shall be promoted or retained according to local educational agency criteria unless waived in the student's IEP.

(5) A student with disabilities who has completed a prescribed course of studies shall be eligible for graduation from high school.

(a) A student who has successfully completed the goals on the IEP shall have completed a prescribed course of study.

(b) Documentation of completion of the annual goals shall be included in the periodic review of the IEP.