

Kimberly School District

INSTRUCTION 2410

High School Graduation Requirements

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in the District who meets the requirements of graduation established by the District. The official transcript will indicate the specific courses taken and level of achievement.

The Board shall establish graduation requirements which, as a minimum, satisfy those established by the Board of Public Education (IDAPA 08.02.03.107). Generally, any change in graduation requirements promulgated by the Board will become effective for the next class to enter ninth grade. Exceptions to this general rule may be made where it is determined by the Board that the proposed change in graduation requirements will not have a negative effect on students already in grades nine through twelve (9-12). The Board shall approve graduation requirements as recommended by the Superintendent.

Graduation requirements from Kimberly High School are based on the State of Idaho Board of Education (7/1/2000) graduation requirements and exceed those requirements. The graduation requirements for receiving a diploma from Kimberly High School, starting with the class of **2003** are: 52 credits, 40 credits are required courses, the balance are electives. The required credits include:

LANGUAGE ARTS– 10 Credits total including:

English	8 credits
Reading	1 credit
Speech	1 credit

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION– 3 Credits including:

Health	1 credit
PE	2 credits

HUMANITIES - 4 Credits total from the following areas:

World History, Literature, Architecture, Band, Choir, Art, Foreign Language, Philosophy, Debate

MATH - 6 Credits

SCIENCE - 6 Credits including two required Laboratory Sciences.

SOCIAL STUDIES - 7 Credits including:

Government	2 Credits
U.S. History	4 Credits
Economics	1 Credit

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION/PERFORMING ARTS - 4 Credits, with at least 2 of the 4 coming in Vocational/Technical Education. A combination of 12 credit courses from any of the following areas: Business Education, Agriculture, Technical Education, Band, Choir, Debate and Drama.

PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Beginning with the class of 2006, students must pass the 10th grade ISAT (Idaho Standards Achievement Test) with a RIT (Rasch Unit) score of 218 in reading, 216 in language arts, and 236 in mathematics. These scores after 2006 may be adjusted by the State Board of Education. Kimberly School District scores will reflect these changes. If a student does not attain these scores or better, the following options for graduation shall be available:

A. A special education student would have to meet the requirements of their IEP (Individualized Education Plan) that outlines specific alternative requirements for their graduation and/or what adaptations will be made for the student when testing. If in the opinion of the IEP team the student has met their IEP requirements, a recommendation would be made to the Kimberly Board to grant a waiver of the ISAT requirement.

- B. A student scoring a score of seventeen (17) or better on the ACT (American College Test) or two hundred (200) on the SAT (School Aptitude Test) or 70 on Compass test in English and scoring nineteen (19) on the ACT or four hundred sixty (460) on the SAT or 46 on Compass test in math, would meet (ISAT) proficiency and be eligible for a waiver to graduate from Kimberly High School if he/she had met the other graduation requirements.
- C. A student who is considered an LEP (Limited English Proficient) student through a score determined on the state language acquisition test and has been in an LEP program for less than three academic years would be eligible for a waiver to graduate if he/she had met the other graduation requirements.
- D. After failing to gain a proficient score on the ISAT three times as a junior (fall, winter, spring), students who do not meet the criteria listed in A, B and C above would have the option of working with teachers, the counselor and principal in developing a portfolio based on their plans following high school. If they can demonstrate skills necessary to meet the requirements of their plan including a PLATO component, they would be eligible for a waiver for graduation by the Kimberly School Board. The students would continue to take the ISAT in the summer of their junior year and in the fall and winter of their senior year. If successful, a student would be eligible for graduation without a waiver, provided he/she met the other district requirements for graduation.

Procedures:

Juniors who have not reached proficiency will be enrolled in a PLATO-based ISAT preparation program. The focus of this program will be to improve skills to reach proficiency on the ISAT which will be offered four times during the year. When a student demonstrates proficiency on the ISAT, he/she may leave the preparation program.

A senior who has not demonstrated proficiency on the ISAT by the beginning of the senior year will submit to the principal his/her request to pursue an alternative to graduation. This applies to seniors in categories A, B, C and D. This request will include the reason for the waiver. Students in Category D will also submit a summary of the efforts that the student has made to pass the ISAT, including the classes taken to improve skills, the number of times the ISAT was taken, etc. The principal will report to the School Board before the end of the first quarter on the requests by seniors to pursue an alternative route to graduation. The principal's report will include students in categories A, B, C and D. The students in all four categories will continue to take the ISAT on scheduled test dates during their senior year.

Request for waivers for graduation in categories A, B, C and D will be presented to the School Board by March 15 by the principal. For students in category D, the request will include the completed portfolio, including documentation that verifies that the student has successfully completed the PLATO courses equivalent to the 10th grade ISAT. The School Board will determine if the students are eligible to graduate. If a student passes the ISAT before graduation, the student may pursue a traditional graduation path.

The measure that will be used with regard to the PLATO IPLN will be in the form of printed documentation. Students will be required to demonstrate that 70% of the state standards measured on the ISAT have been mastered through completion of instruction/assessment of the identified 10th grade level goal area(s). The PLATO IPLN is based 100% on academic proficiency and performance. PLATO also includes each performance objective within the standards and is aligned to the resources that address that performance objective. (See document: "Meeting the Challenge of No Child Left Behind with the PLATO Learning Solution for Standards-Based Education").

The portfolio as outlined above will be reviewed and approved by the Kimberly High School English/Math Department and the Kimberly High School Administration Team.

The PLATO IPLN curriculum is aligned with the 10th grade content standards. The alignments are in multiple documents. These are on file with the State Department of Education as required by the curriculum adoption review process. PLATO IPLN has been approved by the State Department of Education as an intervention curriculum. The portfolio will be based on the current state standards for 10th grade.

The alignment of the specific curriculum content standards of reading, math, and language arts were completed by PLATO. The PLATO software is aligned to the state standards in these subject areas. The PLATO website (www.plato.com) has a research link that shows evidence that it is aligned to the content standards. This document (112 pages in length) is entitled "An Overview of the Research Base of PLATO".

Credentialed teachers in each content area will be evaluating the portfolio in order to ensure validity.

The PLATO curriculum has undergone determination of validity and reliability and includes instruction, assessment and record-keeping components. Research has shown it to be both valid and reliable as an alternate mechanism for demonstrating student proficiency.

Kimberly School District #414 will work with PLATO to ensure that the upgrades which PLATO will continue to develop are utilized. This will ensure that our Alternate Graduation Plan will continue to be as valid and reliable in the future as it is now. The portfolio will be aligned with the latest state standards.

Kimberly School District currently has the PLATO software and is offering the ISAT preparation course at this time. The Alternate Graduation option will be available to students during the 2005-2006 school year only if they:

- A) Are on an IEP;
- B) Are enrolled in a LEP program for three academic years or less; or
- C) Are enrolled in the fall semester of their senior year and have not passed the ISAT reading, and/or language arts and/or math with a proficient score.

Prior to applying for an alternative graduation plan, students that are identified as "at-risk" for passing the ISAT will be enrolled in a preparation course during their junior year that will help to prepare them for the ISAT test. This course will utilize the PLATO IPLN software so that the specific skills that students are lacking can be targeted for improvement.

The aim of Kimberly School District #414 is to have all students demonstrate proficiency on the ISAT. Utilizing the PLATO IPLN preparation course in order to reach proficiency on the ISAT will help motivate the students to work to their fullest potential so that they can pass the test and be exited from the preparation program. Another motivating factor for those few students who do not reach proficiency is that they can use this same tool to complete the portfolio that will be needed through our Alternate Graduation Plan. By using the Alternative Graduation Plan, students will be able to focus on sub-skills within the subject area without feeling that they have to take on the whole subject area at once.

CORE CURRICULUM:

Upon completing any approved path to graduation, a diploma will be awarded.

It is the High School Counselor's responsibility to review records for deficiencies, educational planning, needed counseling conferences, and consultation with teachers. Starting in students' Sophomore year, (2nd semester) if they are at risk of not graduating, the counselor shall notify parents at each semester in writing and a copy of the letter to be placed in the student's record.

A student who possesses a disabling condition shall satisfy those competency requirements which are incorporated into the individualized education program ("IEP"). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated into the IEP shall serve as the basis for determining completion of a course.

A student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies based on their behavior if in the principals judgement an exclusion is warranted. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be awarded after the official ceremony has been held.

Legal Reference:

IDAPA 08.02.03.105 Graduation from High School
IDAPA 08.02.03.107 High School Graduation Standards
(Effective July 1, 2000)
IDAPA 08.02.01.250.02 Required Attendance

Policy History:

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