

Speech Credit

Speech is not like anything else.

Speech/Communications is the only area for which there is a very special board rule.

IDAPA 08.02.03.105. 01. (c) is interpreted in such a way that allows districts the flexibility to offer speech in any course with local school board agreement.

105. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. A student must meet all of the requirements identified in this section before the student will be eligible to graduate from an Idaho high school. The local school district or LEA may establish graduation requirements beyond the state minimum. (5-8-09)

01. Credit Requirements. The State minimum graduation requirement for all Idaho public high schools is forty-six (46) credits and must include twenty-nine (29) credits in core subjects as identified in Paragraphs 105.01.c. through 105.01.i. (3-12-14)

a. Credits. (Effective for all students who enter the ninth grade in the fall of 2010 or later.) One (1) credit shall equal sixty (60) hours of total instruction. School districts or LEA's may request a waiver from this provision by submitting a letter to the State Department of Education for approval, signed by the superintendent and chair of the board of trustees of the district or LEA. The waiver request shall provide information and documentation that substantiates the school district or LEA's reason for not requiring sixty (60) hours of total instruction per credit. (3-29-10)

b. Mastery. Notwithstanding the credit definition of Subsection 105.01.a., a student may also achieve credits by demonstrating mastery of a subject's content standards as defined and approved by the local school district or LEA. (3-29-17)

c. Secondary Language Arts and Communication. Nine (9) credits are required. Eight (8) credits of instruction in Language Arts. Each year of Language Arts shall consist of language study, composition, and literature and be aligned to the Idaho Content Standards for the appropriate grade level. **One (1) credit of instruction in communications consisting of oral communication and technological applications that includes a course in speech, a course in debate, or a sequence of instructional activities that meet the Idaho Speech Content Standards requirements.** (3-29-10)

“With the changes to IDAPA 08.02.03.105 that were adopted by the State Board of Education, students must take one semester credit of instruction in communications consisting of oral communication and technological applications that includes a course in speech, a course in debate, or a sequence of instructional activities that meet the state high school communications standards requirements. The last part of this sentence has been interpreted to allow districts to designate a course other than speech to meet the speech requirement. Hypothetically, you could take a teacher certificated in American Government and have that teacher teach a government content course that covers all of the speech content standards. This course must be approved by your local school board as counting for a speech credit and can only count for a speech credit, not a speech credit and a government credit. You cannot double dip and get two credits for one course.”