As you near graduation, we want to make sure a DPS diploma means you are prepared to be successful in any path you choose — whether that’s the workforce after graduation, continued training for specialized industry certifications or going to college. Starting with our Class of 2021 and every graduating class after that, we have new graduation requirements. There are three parts:

1. **Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)**
2. **Coursework**
3. **Competency**

### What does it mean to demonstrate competency?

It means being able to show that you’ve learned certain skills, abilities and concepts, and that you are able to apply them in the real world. You not only understand an idea or skill, you are also able to build on what you’ve been taught, and even feel comfortable explaining it to others.

With any college work or job in your future, you will be asked to prove what you know, so in DPS we start that skill early.

### Why is it important?

In Colorado, 53% of students in two-year colleges and 20% of students in four-year colleges aren’t ready for college when they get there. They have to take extra classes to catch up, which means it takes longer to graduate and can cost more money in tuition.

Our new graduation requirements are here to make sure students are ready for college and jobs after high school. We want you to feel prepared and confident for your future!

### How can I demonstrate competency?

In order to graduate from DPS, every student will demonstrate competency in English, math and/or career readiness by completing one or more items in the competency menu (listed on the back of this page).

There are lots of ways to show what you’ve learned in school, which is why we created a flexible menu of options to demonstrate competency in English, math and career readiness.

**YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM MANY COMPETENCY OPTIONS.**

**SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS.**

### More education means more job opportunities, which means you can make more money.

**AVERAGE SALARY**

$11,667

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

$62,609

COLLEGE GRADUATES

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

27%

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

5%

COLLEGE GRADUATES

**DID YOU KNOW?**

74% OF ALL COLORADO JOBS BY 2020 WILL REQUIRE EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL. TRADE SCHOOL, AN APPRENTICESHIP OR MILITARY SERVICE.

**WHAT IS THE COMPETENCY COURSEWORK INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN (ICAP)?**

**START EARLY!**
Break it down for me. What are my options?

We encourage you to dig into the many options and decide which one may be the right fit for you. In general, the college readiness measures like ACT, SAT and Accuplacer are aligned to the standards set by Colorado colleges and universities, however, each college or university may have unique admissions standards, so it’s important for students and families to work with school counselors and other school staff to understand individual requirements.

Start early!

Now is the time to start looking for programs at your school that will help you meet competency requirements in English, math and career readiness. For more information, talk with your school counselor and visit www.collegeandcareer.dpsk12.org.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPETENCY DEMONSTRATION OPTIONS</th>
<th>ENGLISH Qualifying Score</th>
<th>MATH Qualifying Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accuplacer</strong>&lt;br&gt;Taken on a computer, Accuplacer is a multiple-choice exam that tests students' math, reading, writing and computer abilities to ensure they are placed in a college class that matches their skill levels. Accuplacer serves as a diagnostics test for students, as it gives them a full picture of academic strengths and weaknesses.</td>
<td>95&lt;br&gt;SENTENCE SKILLS</td>
<td>61&lt;br&gt;ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACT (American College Testing)</strong>&lt;br&gt;The ACT is a national college entrance exam that measures four subjects: English, reading, math and science.</td>
<td>18&lt;br&gt;COMPOSITE</td>
<td>19</td>
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