

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Grades Nine through Twelve

In grades nine through twelve a unit is a course which meets one of the following criteria:

- it is taught for at least 200 minutes per week for 36 weeks;
- it is taught for the equivalent of 120 hours of instruction; or
- it is an equated requirement as a part of an innovative program filed as prescribed by the Department of Education

The following shall be offered and taught as the minimum program:

- English/Language Arts (4 units/8 credits);
- Social Studies (4 units/8 credits);
- Mathematics (4 units/8 credits)
- Science (4 units/8 credits)
- Health (.5 units/1 credit)
- Physical Education (1 unit/2 credits)
- Technology (.5 units/1 credit)
- Financial Literacy (.5 units/1 credit) and
- Elective Courses (10 units/20 credits)

Character Education will be infused throughout the high school program. Character Education stresses character qualities that will maintain a safe and orderly learning environment and that will ultimately equip students to be model citizens. Character qualities to be taught include honesty, responsibility, respect and care for the person and property of others; self-discipline and obedience to law; courage, initiative, commitment, and perseverance; kindness, compassion, service, loyalty, fairness, moderation and patience; dignity and the necessity of hard work.

In implementing the high school program standards, the following curriculum standards shall be used.

English-Language Arts (4 units/8 credits)

English-language arts instruction shall include the following communication processes: speaking; listening; reading; writing; viewing; and visual expression and nonverbal communication.

Instruction shall incorporate:

- language learning;
- creative thinking;
- logical thinking; and
- critical thinking.

The high school English-language arts program shall encompass the following:

- communication processes and skills;
- written composition;
- speech;

- debate;
- American, English, and world literature;
- creative dramatics; and
- journalism

Social Studies (4 units/8 credits)

Social studies instruction shall include citizenship education, history, and social sciences. Instruction shall encompass the following:

- the history of the United States and the history and cultures of other peoples and nations including the analysis of persons, events, issues, and historical evidence reflecting time, change, and cause and effect;
- an overview of American government through the study of the United States Constitution, the federal system of government, and the structure and relationship between the national, state, county, and local governments; and
- voter education.

Economics shall include comparative and consumer studies in relation to the market and command economic systems. Geography shall include the earth's physical and cultural features, their spatial arrangement and interrelationships, and the forces that affect them. Sociology, psychology, and anthropology shall include the scientific study of the individual and group behavior(s) reflecting the impact of these behaviors on persons, groups, society, and the major institutions in a society.

The following shall be incorporated in the various high school social studies courses:

- democratic beliefs and values;
- analytical and critical thinking;
- problem-solving skills; and
- social and political skills.

Mathematics (4 units/8 credits)

Mathematics shall include:

- 2 units of general mathematics, encompassing components in:
 - problem solving;
 - geometry;
 - measurement;
 - appropriate computational skills, incorporating mental arithmetic through the real number system;
 - ratio, proportion, and percent;
 - reasonableness of results;
 - reading, interpreting, and constructing tables, charts, and graphs;
 - estimation
 - applications or mathematics;
 - quantitative literacy; and the
 - use of calculators and computers as standard tools in problem solving;

- 4 units of a sequential mathematics program which would serve as prerequisites to post secondary educational programs. The program shall include: algebraic, geometric, trigonometric, and finite mathematical concepts;
- problem solving;
- applications of mathematics;
- reasonableness of results
- estimation and mental calculations; and the
- use of calculators and computers as standard tools in problem solving.

Science (4 units/8 credits)

Science instruction shall include biological, earth, and physical science, including physics and chemistry. Full units of chemistry and physics shall be taught but may be offered in alternate years. All science instruction shall incorporate the following:

- scientific knowledge;
- the application of the skills and knowledge to students and society;
- conservation of natural resources; and
- environmental awareness

Health (.5 units/1 credit)

Health instruction shall include personal health; food and nutrition; environmental health; safety and survival skills; consumer health; family life; substance abuse and nonuse; emotional and social health; health resources; and prevention and control of disease, including sexually transmitted diseases.

Physical Education (1 unit/2 credits)

Physical education shall include the physical fitness activities that increase cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and flexibility; sports and games; tumbling and gymnastics; rhythms and dance; water safety; leisure and lifetime activities.

Technology (.5 units/1 credit)

Financial Literacy (.5 units/1 credit)

LEGAL REFERENCE: Iowa Admin. Code 3.5(1), (4), (6)

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