



"Personalizing Education – Challenging Minds."
HOME OF THE SEA DRAGONS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION POLICY

It is the intent of Explore Knowledge Academy of Public Speaking to foster an atmosphere of high student achievement and success.

- I. To receive a diploma signifying graduation from Explore Knowledge Academy of Public Speaking, students will be required to fulfill the necessary credits and graduation requirements designated by the Nevada State Board of Education as outlined in the Nevada State Content and Performance Standards, and policies as established by the Explore Knowledge Academy of Public Speaking Board of Trustees.
- II. Academic Plans

Each Grade 9 student must have an approved four-year academic plan. The academic plan must set forth the specific educational goals that the student intends to achieve before graduation from high school. The plan may include, without limitation, the designation of a career pathway and enrollment in Dual Enrollment, career and technical education, and Honors courses.

The Grade 9 student and their parent/guardian are required to work in consultation with a school counselor to develop an academic plan, sign the academic plan, review the academic plan at least once each school year in consultation with a school counselor, and revise the plan if necessary.

For students enrolling in high school after Grade 9, an academic plan will be created with appropriate grade-level modifications.

The academic plan must be used as a guide for the student and the parent/guardian to plan, monitor, and manage the student's educational and occupational development, and make determinations of the appropriate course of study. Each grade 9 student must enroll in the courses of study and credits required to fulfill the Core Enrollment Expectations and any additional courses of study and credits required to receive a College and Career Ready Diploma or credits required to receive a diploma more rigorous than a College and Career Ready Diploma.

After Grade 9, the student and, if possible, the parent/guardian of the student may consult with a school counselor and, if possible, a school administrator at EKAPS to mutually agree to a modified course of study for the student. The modified course of study must satisfy the requirements for a Standard Diploma, an Adjusted Diploma, or an Alternative Diploma.

A student with a disability may not be required to enroll in the courses of study and credits required to receive a College and Career Ready Diploma if, in accordance with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan, the student is exempted from the requirement

If a student does not satisfy all of the goals set forth in the academic plan, the student is eligible to graduate and receive a high school diploma if requirements for a diploma are otherwise satisfied in alignment with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 388.205.



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1. Core Enrollment Expectations

EKAPS strives to prepare graduates for success in post-secondary education and in the workforce by providing a rigorous curriculum. All high school students will be enrolled in the Core Enrollment Expectations, as provided by NRS 389.018, which are aligned to the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Core Curriculum Requirements for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship. A student, including students receiving specially designed instruction, may be granted an enrollment exception to the Core Enrollment Expectations on a limited, individual basis. All exceptions will require written approval of EKAPS Administration, the counselor, the student, and the parent/guardian.

In addition to the above core Enrollment Expectations, students must also satisfy additional requirements as set forth below.

2. Testing Requirements

- a. All students who are enrolled in Grade 11 in public high schools must take a College and Career Readiness Assessment as established by the Nevada Department of Education (NRS 390.610)
- b. The Accountability, Research, and School Improvement Division (AARSI), in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Education, determines the students who have taken or fulfilled examinations required for graduation.
- c. Students not enrolled in Grade 11 in a Nevada public school on any of the college and Career Readiness Assessment administration dates are exempt from the College and Career Readiness Assessment requirement.

B. Diploma Types

In alignment with Nevada Department of Education requirements and available options, EKAPS offers a variety of diplomas designed to meet the individual needs of students. Diploma types and requirements are made available to students and families on the school website.

1. Adjusted Diploma

The Adjusted Diploma may be awarded to students receiving specially designed instruction who have fulfilled all requirements outlined in their IEP. Students who earn the Adjusted Diploma may remain in school and continue receiving services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) through the conclusion of the school year of their twenty-second birthday.

2. Advanced Diploma

The Advanced Diploma may be awarded to students earning 24 units of credit in specific subject areas and who graduate with a 3.25 unweighted grade point average (GPA).



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Beginning with the Cohort of 2026, the Advanced Diploma may be awarded to students earning 24 units of credit in specific subject areas and who graduate with a 3.25 weighted or unweighted GPA.

The Advanced Honors Diploma will continue to be an option for students through the Cohort of 2025. This diploma is based on the requirements of the Advanced Diploma and includes additional coursework at the Honors level or higher.

3. Alternative Diploma

The Alternative Diploma may be awarded to students receiving specially designed instruction who take the Nevada Alternate Assessment. The Alternative Diploma requirements align with the requirements of the Standard Diploma. Students who earn the Alternative Diploma may remain in school and continue receiving services under IDEA through the conclusion of the school year of their twenty-second birthday.

4. College and Career Ready Diploma

The College and Career Ready Diploma may be awarded to students satisfying the requirements established by NRS 390.605. The requirements include 24 units of credit in the areas of proficiency in speaking two or more languages or two units of credit in either AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CTE, work-based learning, or a world language. Students must also earn at least one of the two associated endorsements: College-Ready Endorsement or Career-Ready Endorsement.

5. Standard Diploma

The Standard Diploma may be awarded to students earning 23 units of credit in specific subject areas, including two units of College and Career Ready Flex Credits.

C. Physical Education

1. Exemptions

Exemptions from the course(s) of physical education may be granted under Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 389.488 by the following:

- a. Physical or mental condition, and the request is supported by a written statement from a physician;
- b. Religious belief, and the request is supported by a written statement from the student's parent/guardian.
- c. Enrollment in the Reserve Officer Training Corps;
- d. Intended enrollment in a program which is comparable to the course in physical education;



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A student who is exempt from a physical education course(s) will be required to successfully complete additional credits of coursework to meet the minimum credit requirements for graduation.

D. Equivalent Coursework

EKAPS Administration will identify administrative guidelines and courses that may qualify for equivalent coursework.

E. External Credit Options

External credits may be granted for coursework completed outside of EKAPS while a student is enrolled in EKAPS. EKAPS enrollment includes coursework taken during the school year.

A maximum of six external credits can be applied toward graduation from high school. A maximum of three external credits can be earned in the combined core areas of English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Additionally, external credits from the following programs are accepted, when successfully completed, in accordance with EKAPS' guidelines:

1. Community Service (1 credit maximum)
2. Education Travel Credit (1 credit maximum)
3. Music Equivalent Credit (1 credit maximum)
4. Correspondence Credit/Online Courses
5. Enrichment Program
6. Dual Credit (outside of a formal cooperative agreement)

Dual Enrollment coursework that is completed as part of an EKAPS formal cooperative agreement is not considered to be external credit.

If a student completes external Honors or college-level coursework from an accredited institution, bonus points will be awarded as explained in subsection II.A.

F. Duplicated Coursework

A student may repeat a course, but shall not receive additional credit for the repeated course. The higher grade shall be recorded on the permanent record and the lower grade replaced.

G. State Seals

The following State Seals are available to students who earn a diploma and satisfy additional requirements required by state law: Seal of Biliteracy; Financial Literacy.



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II. EKAPS Honors and College-Level Course Offerings

EKAPS Honors and College-Level Course Offerings are designed to challenge students to enroll in more demanding and rigorous coursework and to improve the advanced academic achievement of students demonstrating accelerated educational potential, while providing college and career readiness skills in preparation for postsecondary enrollment. College-Level Course Offerings at EKAPS consist of Dual Enrollment coursework.

In accordance with EKAPS Dual Enrollment Programs Regulation, Dual Enrollment Course Offerings are designed to allow eligible students enrolled in EKAPS the opportunity to receive credit through those accredited institutions of higher education that have a cooperative formal agreement with EKAPS.

A. Weighted GPA Calculations

1. The weighted GPA will be calculated in the traditional manner (A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, and F=0).
2. The weighted GPA with bonus points will be calculated by adding bonus points for the successful completion of Honors or College-Level Course Offerings.
3. In accordance with NRS 389.007 and NAC 389.6625, bonus points for successful completion of Honors or College-Level Course Offerings will be added as follows:

Honors	0.025
Dual Enrollment	0.050

4. The maximum weighted GPA that can be earned is 4.950; this is achieved by earning a 4.0 unweighted GPA and 0.950 bonus points.

B. Identification of Valedictorian

1. Valedictorian, student with the highest weighted GPA with bonus points in the graduating cohort, will be identified as a candidate at the end of the fall semester.
2. The final Valedictorian will be determined based on the completion of all high school credit coursework.
3. Students who repeat courses must be eligible for Valedictorian designations.

III. High School Graduation - Students with Disabilities

An IEP for each student receiving specially designed instruction must be developed and reviewed annually.

The appropriate course of study leading to program completion will be determined by the IEP team. Efforts should be made to maximize diploma options for students accessing specially designed instruction.



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Any student accessing special education services who has not earned a standard, advanced, or College and Career Ready Diploma may return for educational services through the conclusion of the school year of their twenty-second birthday.

Requirements for students accessing specially designed instruction in the Cohort of 2014 and beyond:

- A. A student accessing specially designed instruction may earn a high school diploma by meeting the requirements stated in Section I.B.
- B. A student accessing special education services may earn an Adjusted Diploma if they have fulfilled all requirements outlined in their IEP. The IEP team may elect to exempt the required areas of study and prescribe an alternate curriculum to the extent that proper consideration has been given to accessing the general education curriculum.
- C. A student who participates in the Nevada Alternate Assessment may earn an Alternative Diploma upon completion of alternative diploma requirements. The Alternative Diploma requirements must be based on grade-level content standards that meet appropriate learning targets for students established by the Nevada Department of Education in the Nevada Academic Content Standard Connectors.

Students who do not complete all requirements for a diploma will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. Students earning an adjusted diploma will be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies.