

**281—32.8(259A) High school equivalency diploma program based on attainment of high school credits.** The department shall award a high school equivalency diploma to an applicant who demonstrates completion of an approved program consisting of at least 36 high school credits. The approved program shall be inclusive of the graduation requirements established under 281—subrule 12.5(5) and consist of at least eight high school credits in English or communications; six credits in mathematics; six credits in science; six credits in social studies, including government; and ten elective credits that meet the requirements of subrule 32.8(4).

**32.8(1) Award of prior credit.** The applicant shall provide certified, translated transcripts from any Iowa school district, accredited public or nonpublic high school, or regionally accredited college or university to document completion of credits earned that are equivalent to those required in an approved program established under this rule. Additional documentation may be requested to validate credits earned.

**32.8(2) Minimum participation requirement.** An eligible applicant must demonstrate competence through continuous enrollment in an approved program for a minimum of two high school credits.

**32.8(3) Minimum graduation requirements.** If the applicant is not continuously enrolled in an approved program, the applicant will become subject to the minimum graduation requirements applicable to the date of reenrollment.

**32.8(4) Electives.**

*a.* Coursework for electives shall align with twenty-first century learning skills and be classified in one of the following five areas:

- (1) Civic literacy;
- (2) Health literacy;
- (3) Technology literacy;
- (4) Financial literacy;
- (5) Employability skills.

*b.* Work-site learning may be counted toward an elective, under the following conditions:

(1) Evidence of prior work-site learning shall be evaluated using a state-developed assessment tool and may be awarded a maximum of two high school credits. Credit earned for prior work-site learning shall not be counted toward the minimum participation requirement, as described in subrule 32.8(2).

(2) Current work-site learning shall be evaluated using a state-developed assessment tool and may be awarded a maximum of two high school credits. Credit earned for current work-site learning may be counted toward the minimum participation requirement, as described in subrule 32.8(2).

**32.8(5) Postsecondary credit.** Credit awarded by a regionally accredited postsecondary institution for the successful completion of a course that applies toward the requirements of a postsecondary credential, including but not limited to a certificate, diploma, or associate, bachelor, or graduate-level degree program, shall be accepted to fulfill the requirements for the satisfactory completion of a program as follows:

*a.* One postsecondary semester credit or its equivalent shall be equal to one-third high school credit. The resulting high school credit can be used to satisfy either a core or elective credit requirement of an approved program.

*b.* Twenty contact hours of noncredit postsecondary coursework shall be equal to one-third high school credit provided the coursework is aligned to regional career pathways and occupational needs. This credit can be used to satisfy an elective credit requirement of an approved program.

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