Graduation Planning & Requirements Expectation vs. Requirements

Graduation requirements are a minimum standard. The expectation for all LKSD students is to graduate with credits beyond the requirements, with the additional credits aligned to individual needs and/or post secondary goals. Meeting only requirements is only used as a fallback.

The Alaska Performance Scholarship requires a rigorous math and science path or social studies path designed to take along with other district requirements.

	LKSD Graduation	APS Math/Science	APS Social Studies
Language Arts	5	4	4
Math	3	4	3
Science	3	4	3
Social Studies	3	4 (art or culture may substitute for 1)	4
World Language			
Life Skills	1		
Health/PE	2		
Electives	5		

LKSD students are counseled to take is the APS transcript, regardless if the student may or may not meet other APS requirements. This requires scheduling and expecting math, science, and social studies every year. This may be adjusted for students needing specific support. Some tiered support classes in Math and Language Arts do not meet the APS criteria, but may still be used in an expectation of courses beyond requirements. Additionally, some tiered support may include a year without a science or social studies if needed to increase success.

To make this possible, schools should be equipped to offer 4 credits of Math, Science, and Social Studies. In order for sites to offer this opportunity, at least 4 courses in each content area have been designated to meet graduation requirements to allow schools to move forward with scheduling even if a student or two has failed a course.

The following document provides a comprehensive plan for meeting APS as well as options for meeting individual educational needs under the philosophy of "Response to Intervention", continuous progress, and every student with a post secondary goal. It includes graduation requirements and recommended RTI pathways.

Graduation Requirements- Definitions

Each required content area has specific requirements and menu requirements. Language Arts and Math additionally have "menu replacements" that may only be used for students as part of the response to intervention/instruction model. Allowed substitutions are used only in special circumstances.

Specific Requirements:
These courses are required. The intent is that every student will graduate with these courses on their transcript. If an IEP student is unable to pass these courses with appropriate accommodations or modifications, a non-diploma track may be considered. The Director of Secondary Education may approve "equivalent" courses for transfer students, (ie English 9 for LA 1).

Content Menu Requirements:
Courses listed in menu requirements meet the content requirement. Selections should be made to meet individual student needs for support, enrichment, or alignment with post-secondary goals.

Tiered Support Menu Replacements:
Menu replacements listed as tiered support are designed to provide additional foundational instruction for students not yet prepared for the core requirements in math and reading. These may be used as a graduation requirement only as part of an individual (IEP or RTI) plan. Test scores and other student data will be reviewed to determine eligibility. Courses with an *must be approved by the Director of Secondary Education or the student's IEP team before approved to meet graduation requirements. IEP team must document the plan in the IEP, students placed based on tier 3 RTI needs will require approval by the director of secondary education based on RTI benchmark or progress monitoring data used for RTI placement (ie MAPS, AIMSWeb).

Allowed Substitutions:
Allowed Substitutions are courses typically offered as an elective class. However, these courses cover similar or related objectives of the required class. **LKSD schools must continue to offer the main requirements.** Substitution requests should only when there is a schedule conflict or off- rotation credit need or a specific individual academic needs (ie part of a career pathway).

Substitutions must be requested through the school counselor. A student must complete a form for the substitution to be moved on the transcript from elective to the requirement.

Courses in red are still under development or have not yet been approved by the board of education.