



A Note for Completing the Graduation Requirements Charter Agreement Amendment Application

Overview

This application is for a school seeking approval from the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) to amend the graduation requirements in its charter agreement. Graduation requirements specify the courses and credits (e.g., Carnegie Units) a student must complete to earn a high school diploma. A school should apply to amend its graduation requirements if it seeks to change the required courses, number of credits within a course category, and/or the total number of credits established in its charter agreement.

Standard for Approval

DC PCSB uses its *High School Graduation Requirements Approval Process Policy (Graduation Requirements Policy)* to evaluate graduation requirements amendment requests. Consult the policy for the precise standard for approval.¹ In summary, DC PCSB staff will generally recommend that its Board approve graduation requirements amendment requests when the proposed graduation requirements are equivalent to or surpass the requirements outlined in Section 2203 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations (DCMR) Title 5-A, Chapter 22, which are listed below:

A total of twenty-four (24) Carnegie Units in corresponding subjects and required volunteer community service hours shall have been satisfactorily completed for graduation.

The following Carnegie Units in the following subjects shall be required:

Courses	Unit(s)
English	4.0
Mathematics; must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II at a minimum	4.0
Science; must include three (3) lab sciences	4.0
Social Studies; must include World History 1 and 2, United States History; United States Government, and District of Columbia History	4.0
World Language	2.0
Art	0.5
Music	0.5
Physical Education/Health	1.5
Electives	3.5
Total	24.0

¹ See the *Graduation Requirements Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/3gxEjbb>.

Students with disabilities may be eligible to receive an Individualized Education Program (IEP) Certificate of Completion if the IEP team determines the student's cognitive ability will not reasonably allow the student to meet the high school graduation requirements. An LEA shall comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)² and District law with regard to appropriate transition assessments.

Additionally, provided that the above standard is met, DC PCSB staff will generally recommend that its Board approve the charter agreement amendment request if the proposed graduation requirements are consistent with the school's mission and the school demonstrates current students will remain on track for graduation.

Submission Deadline

Per DC PCSB's *Charter Agreement Amendment Petition Submission Policy*,³ a school must submit its graduation requirements amendment application no later than April 1 before the school year in which the proposed changes are to be implemented.

Contact

Before completing the application, please contact Janay Saunders at jsaunders@dcpcsb.org to discuss the proposed change. Contact Melodi Sampson at msampson@dcpcsb.org if you have general questions about the charter agreement amendment process.

² 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 *et seq.* See 20 U.S.C. § 1413(a)(5).

³ See the *Charter Agreement Amendment Petition Submission Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/34ORPBZ>.

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA) NAME: BASIS DC Public Charter School

BOARD CHAIR NAME: Craig Barrett, PhD.

SUBMISSION DATE: March 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Graduation Requirements Amendment Request

SCHOOL BACKGROUND AND PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Campus name(s): BASIS DC

Year(s) opened: 2012

Grades served: Grades 5-12

Year the school will undergo its next charter review or renewal: 2027

Proposal summary: In the 2023-2024 school year, Advanced Placement® (AP) by The College Board is releasing a new exam: AP PreCalculus. AP PreCalculus will cover similar content as our existing PreCalculus course, and will still align with preparing students for the existing requirement in our charter that all BASIS students must complete AP Calculus AB.

BASIS DC is also proposing additional changes to the Social Studies graduation requirements. Starting in 2023-2024, BASIS DC will require AP World History: Modern be completed in place of the existing World History & Geography II course beginning with the 2028 graduation cohort. For the 2023-2027 graduation cohort, the current graduation requirements will still apply.

Year the school plans to implement the proposed changes: Changes will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. The graduation requirement changes will take effect with the Class of 2028. For the 2023-2027 graduation cohorts, the current graduation requirements will still apply. (Please see appended graduation requirements documents)

When did the school's board approve the proposed changes? Please find draft minutes and board resolution appended from the March 23, 2023 board meeting.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Describe the proposed changes to the school's graduation requirements.

AP PreCalculus will be an optional course BASIS DC students may take instead of our existing PreCalculus course provided by SPORK Math and receive 1 Carnegie credit upon its completion. The course covers nearly identical content and will still prepare students, regardless of which option is taken, for AP Calculus AB and beyond in the BASIS Charter School Curriculum.

In regards to the proposed changes regarding Social Science requirements at BASIS DC, starting in school year 2023-2024, students will be required to complete AP World

History: Modern in lieu of World History and Geography II in order to meet DC World History Carnegie unit requirements and BASIS DC graduation requirements. As students previously received 1 Carnegie unit of high school credit in 8th grade by completing World History and Geography II, BASIS DC will be slightly modifying the Social Studies course progression for 8th through 11th graders to accommodate this change.

2. What is the school's rationale for these changes?

BASIS DC has always placed an emphasis on preparing students for success on Advanced Placement exams. Since AP PreCalculus is now being offered in 2023-2024, BASIS DC is seeking to immediately adopt the course in its pilot year and offer it as another option students may take instead of our existing PreCalculus course.

By replacing World History & Geography II with the AP World History: Modern course, we will effectively be staying consistent with our approach to challenge our students with a rigorous curriculum that will prepare them for success following graduation in college. Students will continue to evaluate primary and secondary sources as well as putting historical developments in context and making connections between them, but by switching to the curriculum provided by College Board, there will be stronger emphasis on writing preparing them to analyze claims, evidence and reasoning found in various primary and secondary sources to prepare them to develop strong these arguments and support them through writing.

3. Provide a crosswalk demonstrating how the proposed graduation requirements align with DCMR graduation requirements.

AP PreCalculus:

Students at BASIS DC will still be required to complete 6 credits in math prior to graduation. Below is the adjusted list of courses with AP PreCalculus simply being added as an option. Since the DCMR graduation requirements for Math is 4 credits, BASIS DC students will still exceed them by the time they graduate high school.

Varied paths to credit completion depending upon math competency at enrollment grade. A minimum of 3 math credits must be earned in high school. One of the six math credits must be AP Calculus AB OR AP PreCalculus AB.

DCMC Math Graduation Requirements	BASIS DC Graduation Requirements
Algebra I – 1 unit	Algebra I and Geometry – 1.5 credits <i>Note: may be earned prior to 9th grade</i>
Geometry – 1 unit	Algebra II and Geometry – 1.5 credits <i>Note: may be earned prior to 9th grade</i>
Algebra II – 1 unit	<i>AP Pre-Calculus AB – 1 credit*</i> <u>OR</u> <i>AP Calculus – 1 credit</i>
Other Math – 1 unit	<i>Students must earn 2 additional credits of Math and may do so by completing the following:</i> Pre-Calculus A – 1 credit Pre-Calculus B – 1 credit
N/A	

	Pre-Calculus AB – 1 credit <i>AP Pre-Calculus AB – 1 credit*</i> AP Calculus BC – 1 credit Math Elective or Post -AP Math – 1 credit
<i>Total: 4 Carnegie Unit Credits</i>	<i>Total: 6 Carnegie Unit Credits</i>

**Denotes change from previous graduation requirements*

Social Science Changes:

DCMR Social Studies Graduation Requirements	BASIS DC Social Studies Graduation Requirement
World History – 1 unit	AP European History – 1 credit
World History – 1 unit	<i>AP World History: Modern – 1 credit*</i>
United States History - 1 unit	AP United States History – 1 credit
United States Government – 1 unit	AP US Government and Politics - 1 credit
N/A	Economics – 0.5 credit
<i>Total: 4 Carnegie Unit Credits</i>	<i>Total: 4.5 Carnegie Unit Credits</i>

**Denotes change from previous graduation requirements*

4. How will the school ensure students transferring into or exiting the school will be able to carryover credits from or to schools that follow DCMR graduation requirements?

The comments below will apply to both proposed changes.

Courses taken during grades K–8 outside of a BASIS Curriculum School do not carry credit, with the possible exception of courses that meet BASIS Curriculum standards for Graduation requirements. The School accepts credits issued by other high schools, community colleges, and universities as additional Elective credits. To award core course credit for a relevant course completed in grades 9-12 outside of a BASIS Curriculum School (e.g., Algebra II or Honors Biology), schools must submit transcripts to the Curriculum Company Director for review. If the coursework is determined to be adequately aligned with that of the applicable Course Syllabus, the Curriculum Company Director will determine which required credits to award the student. All credits awarded for courses completed outside of a BASIS Curriculum School are excluded from the student's G.P.A.

Since courses taken at BASIS Charter Schools often exceed the standards required in DC, students who transfer from BASIS DC to another LEA would receive credit for their completed coursework. Our 9th grade Honors classes are typically aligned with 11th or 12th grade course level work as they are the immediate pre-requisite for an AP class. Many courses (e.g., Social Sciences – AP Government & Politics, AP European History, AP US History) are AP courses without any pre-requisites required before course placement.

5. How will the school ensure it maintains fidelity to its mission under the proposed graduation requirements?

Since the graduation requirements for the number of credits in Math (6) and the number of required credits for Social Sciences (4.5) will remain unchanged, our fidelity to maintaining our mission will also remain the same. Our curriculum focuses heavily on preparing students for success on AP exams which have proven later success in college following their completion. We are confident that the inclusion of College Board's newest exam will still meet the rigor expected of our students at BASIS DC.

6. How will the proposed changes impact current students? How will the school ensure current students remain on track to graduate?

Since BASIS DC will still be offering other options for PreCalculus (A, AB, & B), provided by SPORK Math, there will be no effect on current students who are either taking the second half of PreCalculus (B version) or moving into a PreCalculus course after completing Algebra II. In addition, the math courses required for graduation far exceed the DCMR minimum requirements so all students will remain on track to graduate from both BASIS DC and with the minimum credit requirements by DCMR for a standard high school diploma, meeting all of the DC standards for coursework completed.

The impact of the proposed changes to Social Science graduation requirements will be minimal with the only change being students must now complete an Advanced Placement course to satisfy one Carnegie unit credit of World History as opposed to a non-AP course. Students at BASIS DC will remain on track to earn the minimum credit requirements for a BASIS Diploma as well as those required by DCMR for a standard high school diploma, meeting all of the DC standards for coursework completed by the time they graduate. In order to support student success, ongoing guidance throughout the year will be provided by our Mentors to provide resources and pedagogical support not only to the AP Government and Politics teacher(s), but also to BASIS DC's English teachers in order to promote differentiation in the classroom, a higher focus on analytical writing, and collaboration amongst the social science and English instructors at BASIS DC to encourage more writing practice in preparation for the AP exam.

7. If the school grants waivers from a school-specific graduation requirement, describe the process by which the school's board will approve each student waiver.

If a student at BASIS DC does not meet the specific requirements to receive a BASIS Diploma (e.g., does not pass an AP exam with a 3 or higher), then the board may vote to award them a standard diploma as long as that student has earned the required credits per DCMR.

8. How will the school determine if students with disabilities have earned IEP Certificates of Completion? If the IEP team determines that students with disabilities are exempt from any established certificate requirement, describe the process by which the school's board will approve each student waiver.

The IEP Team shall determine if a student will seek to achieve a Certificate of IEP Completion instead of a BASIS DC high school diploma or a traditional high school diploma.

For a student to receive their Certificate of IEP Completion from BASIS DC, the student must earn a minimum of 14 high school credits. These credits include 8 credits in the following content areas:

- Two (2) units of English Language Arts;
- Two (2) units of Mathematics
- Two (2) units of Science
- Two (2) units of History/Social Studies;

The remaining 6 credits may be in the subject areas listed above or may be in elective courses.

The student must also complete the annual goals outlined in their IEP by making satisfactory progress toward achievement, as determined by the IEP Team.

BASIS DC Graduation Requirements for 2023 through 2027 Graduation Cohort

Courses	Required Credits	Required Classes	Minimum AP Credits*
English	4	<p>TWO: Honors English Language and Composition – 1 credit Honors English Literature and Composition – 1 credit</p> <p>ONE: AP English Language & Composition – 1 credit AP English Literature & Composition – 1 credit</p> <p>ONE: AP English Language & Composition – 1 credit AP English Literature & Composition – 1 credit Honors English 10 – 1 credit</p>	1
Math	6	<p>TWO Algebra & Geometry I – 1.5 credits (may be earned before 9th grade) Algebra & Geometry II – 1.5 credits (may be earned before 9th grade)</p> <p>ONE AP Calculus AB – 1 credit</p> <p>TWO AP Calculus BC – 1 credit Math Elective or Post-AP Math – 1 credit Pre-Calculus A – 1 credit Pre-Calculus B – 1 credit Pre-Calculus AB – 1 credit Pre-Algebra – 1 credit (only students who took Algebra & Geometry II in 9th grade are eligible to receive credit for Pre-Algebra taken before 9th grade)</p> <p>Varied paths to credit completion depending upon math competency at enrollment grade.</p> <p>Minimum of 3 math credits must be earned in high school. One of the six math credits must be AP Calculus AB.</p>	1
Science	4	<p>TWO: Honors Biology – 1 credit Honors Chemistry – 1 credit</p> <p>ONE: AP Physics 1 – 1 credit Honors Physics – 1 credit</p> <p>ONE: AP Biology – 1 credit AP Chemistry – 1 credit AP Physics 1 – 1 credit only if Honors Physics was used to satisfy the above requirement</p>	1
History	4.5	<p>ALL: AP European History – 1 credit AP U.S. Government and Politics – 1 credit AP U.S. History – 1 credit Economics – 0.5 credits World History & Geography II – 1 credit</p> <p>Students are awarded a World History credit (1) and an Economics credit (.5) for coursework completed in the 8th grade. Students have the option, but are not required, to take the AP World History exam in 8th grade.</p>	3
Languages	3	<p>THREE: Students must obtain all three credits in the same World Language. Options include French, Latin, Chinese, and Spanish. Credit will only be awarded for courses at level II or above, and no course can be used to satisfy more than one credit. AP and Post-AP courses also qualify for credit.</p>	0
Electives	4	<p>ONE: AP Course – 1 credit (courses vary by year; cannot be used to satisfy more than one requirement)</p> <p>ONE: Fine Arts Course – 1 credit (courses vary by year)</p> <p>TWO: Elective - 1 credit (courses vary by year)</p>	1
Total	25.5		7

* School-specific Requirement: Students must complete the specified number of AP courses for each subject area.

BASIS DC Graduation Requirements for 2028 and beyond Graduation Cohort

Courses	Required Credits	Required Classes	Minimum AP Credits*
English	4	<p>TWO: Honors English Language and Composition – 1 credit Honors English Literature and Composition – 1 credit</p> <p>ONE: AP English Language & Composition – 1 credit AP English Literature & Composition – 1 credit</p> <p>ONE: AP English Language & Composition – 1 credit AP English Literature & Composition – 1 credit Honors English 10 – 1 credit</p>	1
Math	6	<p>TWO Algebra & Geometry I – 1.5 credits (may be earned before 9th grade) Algebra & Geometry II – 1.5 credits (may be earned before 9th grade)</p> <p>ONE AP Calculus AB – 1 credit</p> <p>TWO AP Calculus BC – 1 credit Math Elective or Post-AP Math – 1 credit Pre-Calculus A – 1 credit Pre-Calculus B – 1 credit Pre-Calculus AB – 1 credit AP Pre-Calculus - 1 credit Pre-Algebra – 1 credit (only students who took Algebra & Geometry II in 9th grade are eligible to receive credit for Pre-Algebra taken before 9th grade).</p> <p>Varied paths to credit completion depending upon math competency at enrollment grade. Minimum of 3 math credits must be earned in high school.</p> <p>One of the six math credits must be AP Calculus AB.</p>	1
Science	4	<p>TWO: Honors Biology – 1 credit Honors Chemistry – 1 credit</p> <p>ONE: AP Physics 1 – 1 credit Honors Physics – 1 credit</p> <p>ONE: AP Biology – 1 credit AP Chemistry – 1 credit AP Physics 1 – 1 credit only if Honors Physics was used to satisfy the above requirement</p>	1
History	4.5	<p>ALL: AP European History – 1 credit AP U.S. Government and Politics – 1 credit AP U.S. History – 1 credit Economics – 0.5 credits AP World History & Geography – 1 credit</p> <p>Students are awarded a United States Government credit (1) and an Economics credit (.5) for coursework completed in the 8th grade.</p>	3
Languages	3	<p>THREE: Students must obtain all three credits in the same World Language. Options include French, Latin, Chinese, and Spanish. Credit will only be awarded for courses at level II or above, and no course can be used to satisfy more than one credit. AP and Post-AP courses also qualify for credit.</p>	0
Electives	4	<p>ONE: AP Course – 1 credit (courses vary by year; cannot be used to satisfy more than one requirement)</p> <p>ONE: Fine Arts Course – 1 credit (courses vary by year)</p> <p>TWO: Elective - 1 credit (courses vary by year)</p>	1
Total	25.5		7

* School-specific Requirement: Students must complete the specified number of AP courses for each subject area.

**ACTION BY RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

March 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION
BDC23-R07**

It is hereby resolved that the BDC, A Public Charter School Inc. Board of Trustees approves the following additions and revisions to the course offerings beginning in the 2023-2024 school year:

- AP Precalculus as an optional course students may take instead of the existing Precalculus AB course and receive 1 Carnegie credit upon its completion. The course will prepare students for AP Calculus AB and beyond in the BASIS Charter School Curriculum.
- Modification to the History Course Sequence:

DCMR Social Studies Graduation Requirements	BASIS DC Social Studies Graduation Requirement
World History – 1 unit	AP European History – 1 credit
World History – 1 unit	AP World History: Modern – 1 credit*
United States History – 1 unit	AP United States History – 1 credit
United States Government – 1 unit	AP US Government and Politics – 1 credit
N/A	Economics – 0.5 credit
Total: 4 Carnegie Unit Credits	Total: 4.5 Carnegie Unit Credits

***Denotes change from previous graduation requirements**

It is further resolved that the BDC, A Public Charter School Inc. Board of Trustees approves the submission of the necessary documents to DC PCSB to modify the graduation requirements to reflect the revised course offerings/requirements for the corresponding cohorts as the courses are incorporated.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of **BDC, A Public Charter School, Inc. Board of Trustees.**



Anne House Quinn
Secretary
BDC, A Public Charter School, Inc.

Meeting Minutes of the
BDC, A Public Charter School, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees

BASIS DC
410 8th St NW

March 23, 2023

Board members present: Tony Axam, Craig Barrett, Chad Colby, Mali Parke, Anne House Quinn and Debbie Veney

Board members absent: Ishmael Wilson

Staff members present and contributing to the meeting: Kristen Jordison, Alex Rose-Henig, Julie Kearney, Pat McGraw, Cody Roth, John Hillis, Bob Erspamer, Shannon Chavez, Michelle Keogh, Aaron Kindel, Damon Norris, and DeAnna Rowe

1. Craig Barrett called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm ET
2. The agenda was adopted with a change of order as presented below.
3. Executive Director's Report - DeAnna Rowe reported on the following: Provided a link to the BASIS DC Senior Project page and encouraged members to review and follow the student work; Reminded the members of the changes that had occurred at BASIS.ed and introduced Peter and Patti as the new majority owners of the management company who then addressed the members; Provided proposed revised minutes and shared her reasons for the changes and updated the members on the activities that have occurred regarding previous public comment including materials shared with the Board and prior and upcoming actions of School Management at BASIS.ed and Alex Rose-Henig; Reported that the annual agreed upon procedures demonstrated all tested transactions were appropriately categorized; Shared an update on the effort to complete an expansion amendment including demonstration of demand and locating a facility followed by Aaron Kindel's summary of the facility search to date.
4. Call to the Public – Two individuals addressed the Board: Parent Liz Stevenson expressed her appreciation for leadership's communication with parents, her view on how the meeting minutes should be presented, and inquired about a previous request for data on AP performance; Parent Steve Pierson shared that his comments had been addressed in the ED Report and expressed his view on how minutes should be presented.
5. The Board approved the December 9, 2022 minutes with revisions. (Motion by Tony Axam, second by Chad Colby)

6. The Board approved the following resolutions as presented:
 - a. Resolution BDC23-R06 for the approval of the submission of the required documents for the expansion of grade levels (motion by Tony Axam, second by Mali Parke)
 - b. Resolution BDC23-R07 to approve the proposed curricular changes (motion by Tony Axam, second by Chad Colby)
 - c. Resolution BDC23-R08 for the adoption of the Policy for Special Education Certificate of IEP Completion (motion by Mali Parke, second by Tony Axam)
 - d. Resolution BDC23-R09 for the adoption of the Policy for Home and Hospital Instruction (motion by Tony Axam, second by Chad Colby)
 - e. Resolution BDC23-R10 to approve the awarding of the BASIS DC High School Diploma to eligible students for inclusion in the graduation class of 2023 (motion by Tony Axam, second by Mali Parke)
7. Financial Reports - Susan Adams announced her retirement as CFO for BASIS.ed and introduced Tom Bickart as her replacement. Tom briefly addressed the Board. Damon Norris reviewed the Q2 Financial Reports. During the discussion of the Annual Financial Audit, Debbie Siebels noted that it was single audit due to the level of federal funding included in the school's operations in FY22.
8. Management Report – Alex RoseHenig reviewed BASIS DC performance as reflected on OSSE school report cards. He also highlighted the school's performance on baseline and benchmark testing, indicating growth and scores were among the highest in the network. Kristen Jordison reviews mid-year survey data. Julie Kearney provided an update on current enrollment as well as applications for 2023-24, indicating an increase in applications from Ward 7 and 8. Pat McGraw reviewed current marketing strategies. Cody Roth provided an update on efforts to recruit teachers for future needs. John Hillis reviewed the ATF amount raised through Q2 and upcoming events. Bob Erspamer updated the board on intruder drills and identified areas for continued training. Shannon Chavez reported on recent required compliance submissions and monitorings, as well as an update on the charter condition related to students with disabilities. Michelle Keogh provided an update on legal matters.
9. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Minutes taken by DeAnna Rowe

Anne House Quinn, Secretary of the Board
BDC, A Public Charter School, Inc.