

Regents' Diploma Requirements

Effective in 2001, the Regents' Scholar Diploma program was established as an academic letter that school districts use to recognize graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence through the completion of coursework in the six content areas. For students to be nominated as recipients of the Regents' Scholar Diploma, they must have

1. graduated from a South Dakota high school.
2. completed the coursework identified in the six areas outlined below.
3. receive a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or higher on all required coursework.
4. maintained an unweighted cumulative grade point average of a "B" (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) throughout high school.

The courses required for a Regents Diploma are:

4 units of English: Courses with major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis; one year of debate instruction may be included to meet this requirement.

4 units of algebra or higher mathematics: Algebra, geometry, trigonometry or other advanced mathematics including accelerated or honors mathematics (algebra) provided at the 8th grade level; not included are arithmetic, business, consumer or general mathematics or other similar courses.

4 units of science including 3 units of approved laboratory science: Courses in biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one (1) regular laboratory period is scheduled each week. Qualifying physical science or earth science courses (with lab) shall be decided on a case by case basis.

3 units of social studies: History, economics, sociology, geography, government--including U.S. and South Dakota, American Problems, and similar courses.

2 units of a modern or classical language (includes American Sign Language): The two units must be in the same language.

1 unit of fine arts: Coursework in art, theatre or music. Such credit may be in appreciation, analysis, or performance.

Please note: These diplomas are NOT the same as the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, although the requirements are similar. There is no monetary award associated with these diplomas. Receiving a Regents' Scholar diploma guarantees automatic admittance into all six public South Dakota universities. To be considered for the Opportunity Scholarship, students must complete and send an application to the university they plan to attend.