High School Planning Guide
Poudre School District

Map your road to graduation – and beyond!

In PSD, we want each student to graduate with options, whether that means attending college, earning college credits in addition to a high school diploma, serving in the military or entering the workforce. As early as middle school, students start setting goals and creating a timeline. Using Xello, an online application, these milestones are managed through the Individual Career and Academic Planning (ICAP) process. With the support of our educators this multi-year process guides students to develop awareness, knowledge, attitudes and skills to create their own meaningful pathways – and be future ready!

IN PSD, YOU CAN:

- Prepare for a range of in-demand, high-skill and high-wage careers.
- Earn college credits – including an associate’s degree – and save money down the road.
- Explore jobs in agriculture, cybersecurity, health science, business and marketing and more.
- Learn to work as a team, meet deadlines and solve real-world problems through courses, apprenticeships and internships.
- Form lasting relationships with business mentors and future employers.
- Gain academic knowledge, technical skills and industry certifications to set you apart.

In the 2021-22 school year

- Students earned 23,128 college credits
- High schoolers earned 369 industry certifications
- 1,258 high school students completed a CTE pathway
CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

Through partnerships with Front Range Community College, Aims Community College and the University of Northern Colorado, PSD students can explore college-level academics and career pathways before earning their high school diplomas.

- Take Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses at PSD high schools.
- Take accredited college-level courses at your high school through High School Select.
- Take college-level courses at FRCC, Aims, UNC.
- Learn more at psdfutureready.org/collegecredit >>

ASCENT

Apply for the ASCENT Program (Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment)

This one-year program allows students to remain in high school for a fifth year and take classes at Front Range Community College or AIMS Community College. PSD will pay for books, fees, and tuition for college-level courses. To apply for funding, students must have completed at least nine college credits prior to completing PSD’s graduation requirements.

WORK-BASED LEARNING (WBL)

This is fast becoming the needed link that connects education and industry. WBL experiences include job shadows, internships, volunteerism, paid work, and apprenticeships. High school students can access local work-based learning opportunities through Xello or by contacting their school’s work-based learning coordinator. Learn more at psdfutureready.org/wbl >>

Xello complements a student’s ICAP by helping to:
- Build resumes and set goals
- Explore occupations that match skills, interests
- Research colleges, careers, and scholarships
- Build relationships with business leaders and future employers
- Find job shadow opportunities, internships, and apprenticeships
- Learn about industry speakers, career fairs, and workplace tours

Xello has a new parent portal! Learn more at: xello.psdschools.org >>

Futures Lab offers a hands-on experience that complements the learning at a student’s home high school campus. Courses at the Lab support college and career readiness by allowing students the opportunity to deepen their learning, develop in-demand career skills, and earn industry-recognized credentials so they can graduate prepared to succeed in a changing world.

- Open to all PSD high school students
- Transportation provided
- Now located at the new Timnath Middle-High School campus
- Take classes like Coding (MobileMakers); ProStart; Multimedia and Graphic Design; Aviation 1 (drones); Design Thinking; and more

fut.psdschools.org >>
Graduation from high school is just the beginning for PSD students. What comes next is a postsecondary experience unique to each student and their plans for the future. PSD launched the Future Ready website (psdfutureready.org) to help students prepare for the next step in life, whether that means attending a two-year or four-year college or university, joining the military, gaining valuable experience in an internship or apprenticeship, or joining the workforce. Learn more about classes, credit options, and experiences designed for a variety of student pathways at psdfutureready.org.>>

INTEGRATED SERVICES - TRANSITION PROGRAMS

PSD has programs to support students with special needs, as they grow and succeed throughout their high school journey and beyond.
- Community Connections assists PSD students with significant learning needs with transitioning from high school to adult living and/or the post-secondary education world.
- Cooper Home is a collaborative effort between students, parents, and the community to assist students in moving toward natural supports within the community and the work site while fostering independence.
- Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE) is available at all PSD high schools. ACE provides work experience, related classroom instruction, and vocational transition planning for high school students with special needs.
- Project Search is a business-led collaboration that enables young adults with special needs to gain and maintain employment through career exploration and training at Columbine Health Systems.
- School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP) is a transition program that helps youth, with mild to moderate special needs, find and keep a job.

www.psdschools.org/programs-services/integrated-services/transition-resources >>

PSD FUTURE READY PATHWAYS

PSD has 16 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs available beginning in middle school:
- Agriculture
- Architecture and Construction
- Automotive Technology and Service
- Aviation
- Business and Marketing
- Computer Science
- Culinary and Hospitality
- Design and Multimedia Arts
- Digital Media and Communications
- Education and Training
- Engineering/STEM
- Health Science
- Interior and Fashion Design
- Manufacturing
- Networking and Cybersecurity
- Welding and Metal Fabrication

Note: Many pathway courses are available to all PSD high school students through the PSD Futures Lab. Some pathways/courses are only available at certain PSD middle and high schools. Please check with your school about its specific offerings.

psdfutureready.org/find-your-path >>

PSD FUTURE READY CLASSES & EXPERIENCES

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INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Poudre High School’s IB program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people with adaptable skills to tackle society’s complex challenges and who will help make it a better, more peaceful world. IB students will participate in community service, complete a personal project and follow a pre-diploma pathway of their choosing.
## CREDIT AND COURSE PLANNING WORKSHEET

Students planning to attend a four-year college or university in Colorado should complete the following classes in order to fulfill the Higher Education Admission Recommendations (HEAR). HEAR is one factor of many that public four-year institutions consider in the admission decision process. Visit the CDHE Admission webpage to learn about all admission review factors. See your academic counselor for more information.

### Required Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Area</th>
<th>*8th Grade/ Summer School</th>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
<th>Examples of Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language Arts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Any English class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics &amp; Computer Science</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Any Math class (Algebra 1 and higher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Any Science class starting with Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Studies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>World Geography, AP Human Geography, U.S. History, World History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 semester class</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. History</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World Language/Culture</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish, French, German or World History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fine &amp; Applied Arts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Art, Performing Art, Tech Ed, Culinary, and Computer Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 semester class</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Economics, AP Economics, Introduction to Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Finance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 semester class</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Personal Financial, Life Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humanities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 semester class</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Classical, Contemporary, or other Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wellness</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 classes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Health, P.E. or other classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td>(minimum of 13 semester classes)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Music, Arts, Career, Technical courses (i.e. Foods, Business &amp; Marketing, Engineering)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Credit at my high school</strong></td>
<td>(Core class or elective)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High School Select from FRCC/Aims, CU Succeed, AP/IB Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Credit on a college campus</strong></td>
<td>(Core class or elective)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Select at FRCC, Aims, CSU Ready</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits:** 240+  

See more Graduation guidelines information >>

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1 semester class = 5 credits (depending on whether a school is in a semester or quarter system)  
*Parents have the option of declining high school graduation credit for approved courses taught at middle school. See your student’s counselor for details.

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## HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

### Academic Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Area</th>
<th>Recommended Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Electives</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPLORE OUR SCHOOLS

Centennial High School
330 E. Laurel St.
970-488-4940
chs.psdschools.org

Fort Collins High School
3400 Lambkin Way
970-488-8021
fch.psdschools.org

Fossil Ridge High School
5400 Ziegler Road
970-488-6260
frh.psdschools.org

Futures Lab
4700 E. Prospect Road
970-488-4400
fut.psdschools.org

Polaris Expeditionary Learning School
1905 Orchard Place
970-488-8260
pol.psdschools.org

Poudre Community Academy
2540 LaPorte Ave.
970-490-3295
pca.psdschools.org

Poudre High School
201 Impala Drive
970-488-6000
phs.psdschools.org

Poudre School District Global Academy
703 E. Prospect Road
970-490-3086
pga.psdschools.org

Rocky Mountain High School
1300 W. Swallow Road
970-488-7023
rmh.psdschools.org

Timnath Middle-High School
4700 E. Prospect Road
970-419-3400
tmh.psdschools.org

Wellington Middle-High School
2856 Cleveland Ave., Wellington
970-472-2700
wel.psdschools.org

Questions?
• Contact your school counselor or Work-based Learning Coordinator.
• Contact Career and Innovation Assistant Director Tanya Alcaraz
talcaraz@psdschools.org
• Need help with translations? Families and students may contact their family liaison.