

May 5, 2017

Dear Parents:

More than any other time in Colorado's history, it is important for our sixth grade students to seriously begin thinking about their upcoming high school experience and where that might lead them. Middle and high school is the time for students to explore and to plan for post-secondary work. It is essential for students to speak with their families about their passions and interests, to think about possible career options, and to understand the world of work. Your child's school will provide a wide variety of opportunities as well as offer interest inventories and other exploration activities through each students' Individual Career and Academic Plan. It is important that families also provide opportunities through discussion, research, or other exploration opportunities. We want each of our students to be ready to make good decisions in their courses of study in high school and beyond.

In 2007, the Colorado General Assembly adopted legislation that set forth a process for developing statewide high school graduation guidelines that local boards of education must meet or exceed. In support of this legislation, all Colorado school districts recently adopted new academic standards – high expectations for what students should know and be able to do at every grade level in every course. State law now links academic standards and competencies to high school graduation. The goal is to ensure that each of our students will succeed after high school no matter which path they choose—workforce, military, or higher education.

The Littleton Public Schools Board of Education has adopted new graduation requirements in accordance with Colorado law. (See [LPS Board Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements](#).) Beginning with the Class of 2021, Colorado graduates must successfully complete the graduation course requirements for their high school, successfully complete the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) process, and demonstrate competency in English and Mathematics.

Littleton Public Schools has also made additional changes that will provide more flexibility for students. Students can now earn high school credit prior to 9th grade in world languages, Algebra and Geometry. There are also more opportunities at the high school level for course alternatives and waivers to promote expanded graduation pathways. While the number of credits required to graduate has not changed, there will be more paths for students to explore in their areas of interest for credit completion. LPS has a tradition of academic rigor and is committed to preparing 100% of students for meaningful post-secondary opportunities.

For more information about the LPS graduation requirements, including a list of the adopted competency measures, please visit the district website: <http://littletonpublicschools.net/content/graduation>

Sincerely,



Clay Abla

Director of Secondary Education