

Contact: Rachel Boon

**IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF SEMESTER CHANGE REQUEST**

**Action requested:** The Iowa School for the Deaf requests approval to change from a trimester system to a semester system, effective with the 2021-2022 academic year. This change will include a reduction in the credits required to graduate from 58 credits to 47 credits.

**Background:** In 2019, the Board approved a change in credit requirements for high school students at ISD; reducing the number of credits required from 64 to 58 and adding requirements for Personal Finance and ASL as a World Language. All of these courses were offered in a trimester system that has been in place for many years. This requested change from a trimester system to a semester system has two primary reasons.

First, changing to semester will adjust class periods from 60 to 45 minutes. This will allow ISD to have a seven period instruction day, instead of the current 60 minute periods and a six period day. The State Board of Education requires 120 hours of seat time per semester credit. With a 177 day school calendar ISD will exceed the requirement by six hours. With six period trimesters ISD courses met the seat time requirement in two trimesters; however, it made scheduling complicated when a student completed a year-long course in two trimesters. Administrators were constantly in the position of having to schedule students in two academic years to complete courses that began the third trimester.

Second, when ISD initially switched to trimesters many years ago the intent was to match the course and period schedule with Lewis Central. There were, and still are, students from ISD taking classes in the mainstream; however, nearly all other school districts in Iowa are on semester schedules. This difference often creates challenges with matching credit plans for students who enroll at ISD midway through high school or part way through an academic year.

Simplifying the credit and bell schedule will make it more understandable for students, parents, other school districts and ISD's own staff. The appendix shows how high school graduation requirements line up with the current trimester schedule and how it would change in a semester schedule.

**Graduation Requirements – Trimester Hours**

<b>English</b> (8-12 credits)	9A__ 9B__ 9C__ 10A__ 10B__ 10C__ 11A__ 11B__ 11C__ 12A__ 12B__ 12C__
<b>Social Studies</b> (6 credits)	American Hist A__ American Hist B__ American Govt A__ American Govt B__ Deaf Studies__ Class #6__
<b>Science</b> (6 credits)	Life Science A__ Life Science B__ Physical Science A__ Physical Science B__ Class #5__ Class #6__
<b>Math</b> (6-9 credits)	Algebra 1__ OR Applied Algebra__ OR LC Algebra 1-2__ Geometry__ OR Applied Geo.__ OR LC Geo. 1-2__ Algebra 2__ OR Applied Statistics__ OR LC Algebra 3-4__
<b>Physical Education</b> (4 credits)	Class #1__ Class #2__ Class #3__ Class #4__
<b>Health</b> (1-2 credits)	Health 1__ Health 2__ OR LC Health__
<b>Personal Development</b> (5 credits)	Personal Finance__ Net Etiquette__ Personal and Career Development__ Work-Based Learning__ Computer Applications__
<b>Fine Arts</b> (1 credit)	Art__ Theatre__ LC__
<b>World Language Credit</b> (4 credits)	ASL1__ OR ASL Expository__ ASL 2__ OR ASL Storytelling__ ASL 3__ OR ASL Grammar__ ASL 4__ OR ASL Literature__
<b>Electives</b> (7-12 credits)	**Electives offered during the 2020-2021 school year include: Yearbook, Woods, Computer Coding, Small Engine Repair, Metal, Art, American Literature, Photography, Driver Education, Reading, Home Maintenance and Current Events, Work-based Learning

A minimum of **58 credits** is required to graduate

\*\*Required credits are determined by where the courses are taken and course sequence.

**Graduation Requirements – Semester Hours**

**English (8 credits)**

English 9A, 9B  
English 10A, 10B  
English 11A, 11B  
English 12A, 12B

**Social Studies (6 credits)**

American History A, B  
American Government A, B  
Deaf Studies  
Social Studies Elective

**Science (6 credits)**

Life Science A, B  
Physical Science A, B  
Earth Science A, B

**Math (6 credits)**

Algebra 1, OR Applied Algebra, OR LC Algebra 1-2  
Geometry, OR Applied Geometry, OR LC Geometry 1-2  
Algebra 2, OR Applied Statistics, OR LC Algebra 3-4

**Physical Education (4 credits)**

**Health (1 credit)**

Health 1, OR Health 2

**Personal Development (3 credits)**

Personal Finance  
Net Etiquette  
Computer Applications

**Fine Arts (2 credits)**

Art  
Theatre  
LC

**World Language Credit (4 credits)**

ASL 1A, 1B OR ASL Expository A, B  
ASL 2A, 2B OR ASL Storytelling A, B  
ASL 3A, 3B OR ASL Grammar A, B  
ASL 4A, 4B OR ASL Literature A, B

**Electives (7-12 credits)**

\*\*Electives offered during the 2020-2021 school year include: Yearbook, Woods, Computer Coding, Small Engine Repair, Metals, Art, American Literature, Photography, Driver Education, Reading, Home Maintenance, Current Events, and Personal and Career Development, Work-Based Learning

A minimum of **47 credits** is required to graduate

\*\*Required credits are determined by where the courses are taken and course sequence.