

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Joint BOR and Board of Education Standards Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 2 – C

DATE: May 8-10, 2018

SUBJECT

Regents' Scholar Diploma

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2:3](#) – System Undergraduate Admissions

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

When the Board of Regents first adopted a common admission policy for the Regental system in 1987, the Regents Scholars Curriculum (see Section 8 of BOR Policy 2:3 in Attachment I) was identified as the core curriculum students should complete in high school to improve their opportunity for postsecondary success. Since that time the Regents' Scholar Diploma has been awarded to South Dakota high school graduates who complete:

- Four units of English,
- Four units of Algebra or higher mathematics,
- Four units of Science including units of approved laboratory science;
- Three units of social studies;
- Two units of modern or classical language, and
- One unit of fine arts.

When initially introduced in 1987, the South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) facilitated the awarding of the diploma to eligible students. Each school district self-identified students, and then the DOE printed diplomas that were signed by the Secretary of Education and the President of the Board of Regents. In 2010, the DOE inquired about shifting the responsibility for collecting nominations from local school district personnel (and the printing of diplomas) to the Board of Regent central office. Since that time, Regents' Scholar Diplomas (see Attachment II) have been printed and distributed to school districts around the state by BOR central office staff.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regents' Scholar Diploma curriculum mirrored the original curriculum for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship program until CTE coursework was added as an option to Modern/Classical languages in 2010. Since that time, there has continued to be uncertainty

(Continued)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

among school personnel regarding the distinctions between the two curriculum models. Additionally, each year higher levels of engagement are required to encourage school district personnel to submit the list of eligible recipients. With the proposed updates to the South Dakota high school graduation requirements, the "Advanced Academic Preparation" designation (see Attachment III) would be assigned on the student high school transcript at the point of graduation. The only distinction between these two designations are that students are allowed to enroll in approved CTE coursework rather than complete two units of Modern/Classical languages.

Board staff support aligning the Regents' Scholar Diploma with the "Advanced Academic Preparation" certificate. If the Board of Regents is supportive of this approach, the necessary changes will be made to the System Undergraduate Admissions policy at a future meeting. Additionally, the formal awarding of Regents' Scholar Diplomas would end after the May 2018 high school graduates.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Section 8 of BOR Policy 2:3

Attachment II – Example of Regents Scholar Diploma

Attachment III – Proposed updates to the South Dakota high school graduation requirements "Advanced Academic Preparation" designation

Section 8 of Board of Regents Policy 2:3 System Undergraduate Admissions**8. Regents Scholars**

South Dakota high school graduates completing the following high school courses with no final grade below a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and an average grade of "B" (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) shall be designated as Regents Scholars and shall be eligible to receive a Regents Scholar Diploma upon request by a high school administrator to the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs. High school graduates designated as Regents Scholars automatically are admitted to all six public universities.

- 8.1. Four (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.
- 8.2. Four (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.
- 8.3. Four (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. Accelerated or honors science (biology, physics or chemistry) provided in the 8th grade shall be accepted. Qualifying physical science or earth science courses (with lab) shall be decided on a case by case basis.
- 8.4. Three (3) Units of Social Studies: History, economics, sociology, geography, government--including U.S. and South Dakota, American Problems, etc.
- 8.5. Two (2) Units of a Modern (including American Sign Language) or Classical Language: The two units must be in the same language.
- 8.6. One (1) Unit of Fine Arts*: Art, theatre or music--appreciation, analysis, or performance.

State of South Dakota Award of Excellence

Regents' Scholar Diploma

This certifies that

JOHN SMITH

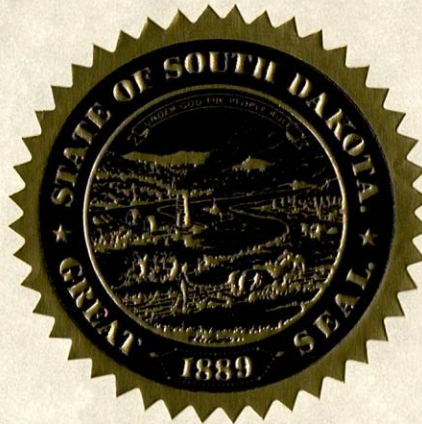
*has achieved academic excellence by completing four units each of English, Mathematics and Science, two units of one Modern or Classical Language, three units of Social Studies, and one unit of Fine Arts.**

Presented this 15 day of May, 20 18

Henry Bangstad
Governor, State of South Dakota

Shantel Krebs
South Dakota Secretary of State

Donald A. K. Kegoard
Secretary, South Dakota Department of Education



Susan K. Aguilar
President, South Dakota Board of Education Standards

Bob Sutton
President, South Dakota Board of Regents

*Receipt of this diploma does not indicate the holder has satisfied curriculum eligibility standards for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship program. Coursework considered in issuing this diploma must be approved by the Board of Regents before it can be recognized as satisfying South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship program requirements.

Advanced Academic Preparation:

Subject	PROPOSED		CURRENT GRAD REQUIREMENTS	
	Within Units Required, Must Include:	Total Units Required	Within Units Required, Must Include:	Total Units Required
English	1.5 unit writing .5 unit speech 1.5 unit literature, including .5 unit American literature .5 unit language arts elective	4	1.5 units writing .5 unit speech 1.5 units literature (must include .5 unit U.S. Literature) .5 unit language arts elective	4
Mathematics	1 unit Algebra I 1 unit Geometry 1 unit Algebra II 1 unit advanced mathematics see https://sdos.sdbor.edu/require/require.html for more information)	4	1 unit Algebra 1 unit Geometry~ 1 unit Algebra II~	3
Science	1 unit Biology 1 unit any physical science 1 unit chemistry or physics 1 unit science electives	4	1 unit Any Physical Science 1 unit Biology 1 unit Chemistry or Physics~	3
Social Studies	1 unit U.S. History .5 unit U.S. Government .5 unit Geography .5 unit social studies elective	3	1 unit U.S. History .5 unit U.S. Government .5 unit World History .5 unit Geography	3
Fine Arts		1		1
Physical Education		.5		.5
Health/Health Integration		.5		.5
Personal Finance or Economics		.5		.5
Approved CTE –OR– World Language	Approved CTE courses OR Modern or Classical language (including U.S. Sign Language); units must be in the same language	2		1
Electives		3		5.5
Total		22		22