

Policy IFG: Early Graduation

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 12/17/2019

In an effort to better tailor the educational system to students' needs, the _____ School District allows for early graduation for those students who have met the necessary requirements. Early graduation is defined as successful completion of all state and districts standards prior to completing eight semesters of high school work from the start of grade 9.

A student's application to graduate early shall be approved by the school counselor and the local high school principal. Preparedness for post-secondary endeavors shall be taken into account when discussing the option of early graduation with students.

A student shall acquire, at a minimum, the required number of Carnegie units and other existing standards for a traditional diploma. Additionally, the student must have documented evidence in their Individual Success Plan (ISP) of actively working toward one of the state-recognized diploma endorsements (Career and Technical Education (CTE), JROTC, Academic or Distinguished Academic) unless one of the following exceptions applies:

1. A non-Senior who will turn 18 on or before December 1 of the current academic school year.
2. A student who has been retained in one or more grades.
3. A student with a hardship situation (child, family, health, etc.)

A student's application to graduate more than one semester early shall be submitted prior to the end of the first semester of the student's junior year. Applications submitted after this deadline may be reviewed and approved at the discretion of the district. The students applying for this option shall have completed at least one of the following:

1. Met National Benchmarks for ACT College and Career Readiness Standards for English/Reading and Math
2. Scored Silver or Higher on ACT WorkKeys
3. Earned a CTE national certification
4. Earned at least nine (9) hours of academic or CTE dual credit
5. Passed all End-of-Course Assessments needed to meet graduation requirements
6. Completed a one Carnegie unit credit-bearing work-based learning class or a similar 140-hour work-based learning experience in industry that could provide sustainable employment leading to a family-sustaining wage.

Early graduation involves the completion of all high school academic requirements in less than a traditional four-year program. Any high school student who will complete the number of Carnegie units and other existing standards required by both the state and the district prior to completing eight (8) semesters of high school work may petition to graduate early. The student must submit the early graduation request to the principal at least one (1) semester in advance of the beginning of the school year in which the student wishes to graduate.

The Board authorizes the superintendent to establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy.

The superintendent shall establish an application process that articulates the student's postsecondary plan which shall be placed in the student's cumulative folder. The completed application shall require parental or guardian consent for students under the age of 18.

A student's plan may be terminated at any time due to academic, behavioral, or attendance issues.

Early graduates, and their grades, shall be reported in accordance with MDE standards.