

Graduation Requirements

Section A - Introduction

To graduate from high school, unless otherwise exempted, each student is responsible for:

1. Completing all school district graduation requirements that are in addition to the State requirements.
 - a. The school district’s graduation requirements may be modified in accordance with Board Policy 7320 - Graduation Guidelines for Special Education Students.
2. Completing all courses as provided in Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-22).
3. Completing all minimum requirements for graduation as specified in State law (105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)).
4. Passing an examination of patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance (105 ILCS 5/27-3).
5. Participating in State assessments that are required for graduation by State law (105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c)). A student is exempted from this requirement if:
 - a. The student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) developed under Article 14 of the Illinois School Code identifies the State’s college and career ready assessment as inappropriate, even with accommodations; and
 - b. The student is eligible to take, and does take, an alternate assessment provided by the State instead.
6. Filing one of the following: (1) a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Department of Education, (2) an application for State financial aid, or (3) an Illinois State Board of Education waiver form indicating that the student understands what these aid opportunities are and has chosen not to file an application. If the student is not at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student’s parent/guardian must file one of these documents on the student’s behalf. A student is exempted from this requirement if:
 - a. The student or the student’s parent/guardian is unable to file one of the financial aid applications or an ISBE waiver due to extenuating circumstances as determined by the principal or designee;
 - b. The principal or designee attests that the school district made a good faith effort to assist the student or the student’s parent/guardian with filing a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver form; and
 - c. The student has met all other graduation requirements.

Section B - Course Requirements

The following units of credit are required for graduation from school district:

Note	Content Area	Credits
1	English	4.00
2	Physical Education Health	3.50 0.50
3	Mathematics	3.00

4	Social Studies	2.00
	Science	2.00
5	Applied Arts	0.50
	Consumer Education	0.50
6	Driver Education	0.25
7	Fine Arts	0.50
	Electives	7.25
Total Number of Units		24.0

A unit of credit has traditionally been a measure of learning expected for a class meeting for the entire school year. However, under the school district’s present programs, it is possible for students to successfully complete this learning for certain Content Areas in less than one full year. Thus, units of credit become measures of successful learning accomplished rather than assigned time in class. With performance being the significant factor in determining progress, it is possible for some students to complete the graduation requirements in less than four years.

Notes:

1. **English:**
Two years of writing intensive courses are required by the State. At least one of these classes must be in English. Classes that meet this requirement will be so identified in the course enrollment guide.

2. **Physical Education and Health:**
A student may receive an exemption from at least part of the physical education requirement in accordance with Board Policy 7265. If an exemption is approved in accordance with that policy, such requirement for physical education will be reduced accordingly.

3. **Mathematics:**
For the three units of credit required for mathematics, one of the courses must be Algebra I, and one must include geometry content.

4. **Social Studies:**
One unit of credit in U.S. History along with 0.5 units of “Civics” must be earned as part of the two units of credit required in Social Studies. Courses that meet the “Civics” requirement are identified in the course enrollment guide.

5. **Applied Arts:**
The Applied Arts requirement shall include courses in applied technology, business education (excluding Consumer Education), and family and consumer sciences, as well as designated courses in computer technology, the Beginning Photography course, and the Introduction to

Broadcasting course.

6. Driver Education:

The classroom phase of Driver Education is required for graduation; the behind-the-wheel phase is not required. This graduation requirement may be met by the student successfully completing a driver education program offered by a State-accredited private driver education school, as evidenced by a certification of completion from the driver education school; however, high school credit will not be granted for such completion.

7. Fine Arts:

The Fine Arts requirement shall include courses in art, drama, and music, as well as designated courses in the English department, the Beginning Photography course, and the Introduction to Broadcasting course.

In addition to the above-listed units of credit, students shall be required to:

1. Be enrolled in a minimum of six courses for credit during each semester they are enrolled in the school district. The principal or designee may waive the six-course requirement, on a case-by-case basis, if the needs of the student are best served by such action; and
2. Be enrolled in an English course during each semester while enrolled in the school district.

Section C - Early Graduation

1. Upon application, the Board of Education may authorize early graduation for students who have met the following criteria:
 - a. Satisfied all requirements for graduation as contained in Sections A and B of this policy;
 - b. Demonstrated that an alternative to continuing the student's high school education would be more productive and in the student's best interest; and
 - c. Have parental/guardian permission for early graduation, for students under 18 years of age as of the date of graduation.
2. A faculty committee chaired by the assistant principal for student services or designee shall be appointed by the principal in each school. The committee shall process all petitions for early graduation and shall recommend to the principal whether the petitioner fulfills the criteria under subsection F.1 above. Requests for early graduation recommended for approval by the principal and the superintendent will be submitted to the Board of Education for consideration for approval or denial.
3. As part of the application procedure, the student and the student's parent/guardian shall be required to certify that the student will remain in attendance in the school district through the conclusion of the student's last semester prior to early graduation. Exceptions to this requirement must be approved by the principal and superintendent or designee.

Section D - No Age or Social Promotion or Approval

Students shall not be promoted to the next higher grade level or approved for graduation based upon age or any other social reasons not related to the academic performance of the students (105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a).

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