

345.61 - EARLY GRADUATION

The Auburndale School District accepts a philosophy of education which recognizes the individual differences among students. It is recognized that the more schooling that a pupil receives, the greater their chances for a successful future. To this end, Auburndale High School desires to maximize, and not minimize, a pupil's educational opportunities. For this reason, it will permit early graduation following completion of the junior year or at the end of any grading period of their senior year dependent upon the following factors:

1. The building principal and high school counselor have granted permission following conferences with faculty members who have worked with the student. (Social and emotional factors are to be evaluated in addition to academic achievements.)
2. The pupil demonstrates a feasible plan designed to satisfactorily fulfill the required courses for the diploma desired.
3. The pupil presents a plan which outlines their future plans and how early graduation facilitates these plans.

The following procedure for obtaining approval for early graduation must be followed:

1. The pupil must discuss the early graduation possibilities with his/her guidance counselor.
2. The pupil must write a letter to the principal stating the following:
 - a. Request for early graduation to include the date of graduation.
 - b. Reasons for the request.
3. A parent or guardian must write a letter to the principal stating support and approval of their pupil's early graduation request.
4. The letters will be reviewed by the principal and counselor
5. A conference will be held with a parent or guardian, the pupil, the principal, and the guidance counselor to discuss the request.
6. A documentation will be presented to the district administrator and board of education following approval by the high school principal. The principal's favorable recommendation will be based upon the following criteria: maturity, academic ability and progress, etc. Denial of the request will be reduced to writing by the principal and a copy provided to the student and his/her parent or guardian. The parent or guardian and pupil may be present when the Board of Education decides on the request.

7. Pupils wishing to graduate prior to May of their senior year are required to initiate this process in writing by the beginning of the quarter in which the senior wishes to graduate.
8. All approvals are made contingent upon required courses and credit requirement fulfillment.
9. No early commencement exercises will be held, however; an early graduate will be permitted to participate in the regular spring commencement activities.
10. Pupils who graduate early will not be permitted to take part in any organized school activity except for those open to the general public. Exceptions to this include graduation practice, tractor day parade, school dances, or when advanced principal permission is requested and approved. While visiting AHS they will be expected to follow all procedures required of other adults in the community. Early graduates may enroll in higher education classes at the university, colleges, or technical schools. All courses, fees, and financial obligations become the responsibility of the early graduate, not the School District of Auburndale.

Adopted: October 16, 2002

Revised: July 20, 2022, July 16, 2025