

5066 Early Graduation

General Policy. Students most effectively obtain the skills and experience necessary to graduate from high school by completing grades nine (9) through twelve (12), over the course of four years. Unless otherwise permitted by Board policy or other applicable law, students must finish all four grade levels in order to graduate.

Requirements for Application. In unique circumstances, the Board may waive the four-year attendance requirement for high school graduation, provided that the student has met the requirements of this policy.

Students must make an application to the high school principal before they may seek permission to graduate early from the Board. The principal may consult with appropriate instructional and guidance staff members in making the determination. The student's application must include:

1. Proof that the student will meet all academic requirements necessary to graduate on or before the proposed graduation date;
2. A transcript showing that the student has no grade lower than "C" in any required course at the time of application;
3. A detailed essay that (a) addresses the reasons for seeking early graduation and (b) articulates the student's post-graduation plans, including goals and objectives justifying the need to graduate early; and
4. A letter from a parent/guardian supporting the application.

The student may submit any additional materials which support the student's efforts to graduate early. Such materials may include, but are not required to include: letters of support from staff and community members; proof of admission in a postsecondary program; and/or any other materials which the student believes to support the student's application.

Consideration by the Board of Education. The principal will make a written recommendation to the Board based on the submitted application from the student. The Board will consider, but is not bound by the principal's recommendation. Along with the application, the Board may consult with members of the administration, staff, or anyone else the Board deems appropriate. The Board will grant a student's application only if it determines that the student is best served by permitting the student to graduate early.

Participation in District Activities. Early graduates will be considered graduates of the district at the time the Board confers such status upon them. Therefore, early graduates will no longer be considered members of the student body and will forfeit those rights and privileges accorded such students.

Adopted on: October 14, 2014

Revised on: November 14, 2017

Reviewed on: January 13, 2026