

APPROVAL FOR EARLY GRADUATION

Any student who wishes to be considered for early graduation must meet one of the eligibility criteria cited in the 6146 Policy Statement under *Early Graduation*.

There are three paths to Early Graduation:

1. Early Graduation at the conclusion of the student's Junior Year.
2. Early Graduation at the conclusion of the First Semester of the student's Senior Year.
3. Early Graduation according to program completion at an accredited alternate placement school, court mandated facility or rehabilitation center, or other district approved self-paced academic program.

Junior Year Graduation Pathway:

- Minimum GPA of 78.
- Successful completion of 120 credits by the end of the student's Junior Year.
- Successful completion of all graduation requirements by the end of the student's Junior Year, including all mandated New Jersey testing requirements.

Junior Year Graduation Procedure:

- A letter of intent to graduate at the end of the Junior Year must be submitted to the High School Principal no later than June 30 of the student's sophomore year.
- Following the submission of the letter of intent, the Principal will convene the Early Graduation Committee to determine the student's eligibility.
- The Committee will then make a recommendation to the superintendent for early graduation approval or denial with cause.
- The superintendent will have final approval for early graduation.

Junior Year Graduation Guidelines:

- Final GPA will be calculated at the conclusion of the students Junior Year.
- Junior Year Graduates will be excluded from class rank.
- Junior Year Graduates may participate in the prom, class trip, and graduation ceremony at the conclusion of their Junior Year.
- Junior Year Graduates may NOT opt to defer participation of senior privilege events (prom, senior trip, graduation ceremony) to the following calendar year's senior privilege events held for their traditional graduation cohort group/class.

- Junior Year Graduates in good standing will have all the rights and privileges of typical graduating seniors including but not limited to the prom, senior class trip, and the graduation ceremony.
- Junior Year Graduates who fail to meet all graduation requirements at the conclusion of their Junior Year will not be permitted to graduate at the conclusion of their Junior Year.
- Junior-Year Graduates may not be eligible for state tuition programs, local awards or scholarships. Applicants for early graduation are solely responsible for determining their eligibility for such programs.

First Semester Senior Graduation Pathway:

- Minimum GPA of 78.
- Successful completion of 130 credits by the end of the student's first semester during their Senior Year.
- Completion of all graduation requirements by the end of the student's first semester during their Senior Year including all mandated New Jersey testing requirements.

First Semester Senior Year Graduation Procedure:

- A letter of intent to graduate at the end of the first semester of the student's Senior Year must be submitted to the High School Principal no later than June 30 of the student's Junior Year.
- Following the submission of the letter of intent, the Principal will convene the early graduation committee to determine the student's eligibility.
- The committee will then make a recommendation to the superintendent for early graduation approval or denial with cause
- The superintendent will have final approval for early graduation.

First Semester Senior Year Graduation Guidelines:

- Final GPA will be calculated at the conclusion of the student's first semester of their Senior Year.
- First Semester Senior Year Graduates will be excluded from class rank.
- First Semester Senior Year Graduates may opt to participate in senior spring activities, including but not limited to the prom and senior class trip. The administration must be notified of the student's intent to attend each activity according to the activities individual timeline.

Early Graduation Due to Program Completion:

Students who complete all graduation requirements prior to their targeted graduation date at an accredited alternate placement school, court mandated facility or rehabilitation center, or other district approved self-paced academic program may be eligible for early graduation. Each case will be reviewed by the early graduation committee upon the notification that the student has completed all graduation requirements. The committee will also determine on an individual basis whether the student will be permitted to attend senior activities including but not limited to, prom, senior trip, and the commencement ceremony. Individual student circumstances, such as the results of a board disciplinary hearing may prevent the committee from determining extracurricular eligibility.

Early Graduation Committee:

The High School Principal will establish the Early Graduation Committee on an as needed basis for each individual request for early graduation. The committee will consist of the following professional educators:

High School Principal – Chairperson

- Assistant Principal – Vice-Chairperson
- Requesting Student’s Guidance Counselor
- No less than 2 Academic Subject Area Teachers
- Child Study Team Case Manager when appropriate
- Other members as deemed appropriate according to the student’s individual case.

Early Graduation Committee Procedures:

1. Upon the establishment of the early graduation committee, the Principal, Assistant Principal, and the student’s guidance counselor shall meet with the Parent/Guardian and the requesting student to collect and discuss information concerning the following criteria relating to the requesting student:

- a. Future educational and career objective.
- b. College matriculation date.
- c. Collegiate and professional requirements necessary to complete desired degree work.
- d. Catalyst for early graduation decision.
- e. Benefit of early graduation for the student.

2. The Early Graduation Committee shall meet within one month of receiving a student’s request.

3. The Early Graduation Committee will determine the students early graduation eligibility based on the following:

- a. Early Graduation Criteria
- b. Historical Grades
- c. Graduation Requirements met to date – including testing data
- d. Projected Graduation Requirements met prior to deadline
- e. Age and Social Maturity
- f. Emotional Maturity
- g. Work and Study Habits
- h. Attendance Records
- i. Discipline Records
- j. Scholastic Achievements
- k. Extracurricular involvement
- l. Any data collected at the initial student/parent/guardian interview

4. The committee will present, in writing, its findings for approval or denial for early graduation to the superintendent. Any denial must contain specific reasons as to the denial of early graduation.

5. Upon receipt of the committee's recommendation, the superintendent will determine whether the committee's recommendation should be brought to the Board for approval.

6. The superintendent will then recommend a board motion to graduate the student early.

7. Upon receipt of the board approval, the superintendent will notify the parent/guardian and the student of the Board's decision.

8. Failure to comply with the early graduation guidelines established in this regulation will require the Board to reconsider its approval for early graduation.

DATE: March, 2006

Date Revised: June 19, 2017