

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUZEKA-STEUBEN

EARLY GRADUATION

The Board of Education believes that it is advisable for the great majority of students to complete a four-year high school sequence for graduation. Recognizing, however, that some students and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) wish to pursue alternative educational paths, early graduation is offered as one (1) of these paths.

It is recommended that prior to moving forward with early graduation plans, the student and his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) first consult with the school counselor. Candidates for early graduation shall be considered on a case-by-case basis and must complete an early graduation application (See *Policy 345.1 – Rule*) to the high school principal. Within the application, the student must detail post high school plans and why graduating early will help in carrying out those plans.

Students who wish to graduate after seven (7) semesters must apply no later than the first week of the seventh (7th) semester. Students who wish to graduate after six (6) semesters must apply no later than the first week of the fifth (5th) semester.

Following the submission of the application, a conference will be held with the student, his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s), the counselor and/or principal, and the Director of Special Education (as appropriate).

Once a student declares his/her intent to graduate early and the principal approves the request, the decision is final for the purpose of assigning grade level status which will be used to determine student honor status and all scholarship eligibility. Early graduates are encouraged to participate in graduation ceremonies with his/her class, but no special early graduation ceremony will be held.

The principal's decision to approve or disapprove of the early graduation request will be based upon:

- A. The student's academic achievement and credit status
- B. Signature of approval from the parent(s)/legal guardian(s)
- C. The student's rationale for pursuing early graduation

Graduation and Class Rank

If a student is allowed to complete high school after six (6) semesters, s/he will be fully eligible for financial aid consideration, but will not be placed with the current senior class for rank purposes and cannot replace seniors or receive current year or senior honors awards. The student has the option to either attend graduation ceremonies with the current graduating class or returning a year later to participate with his/her own class. The decision, however, must be made by the student at the time of the approval.

Those students approved for graduation after six (6) semesters will be ranked with the class in which s/he entered grade nine. S/he will be eligible for honors, awards, scholarships, and other awards with this same class with whom s/he entered grade nine (9).

Students allowed to complete their schooling in seven (7) semesters will be ranked with their classmates for all purposes including scholarships.

Legal References: Wis. Stats. §§ Sections 118.33, 120.12(2), 121.02(1); PI 18 Wisconsin Administrative Code

Cross References: Policy 345.6 Graduation Requirements; High School Student Handbook

Adoption Date: 2/15/1982

Date Revised: 1/20/2014

Date Reviewed: