

EARLY GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL

345.61

The District's high school graduation requirements are established with the intent that students will normally attend high school for four (4) school years. Early graduation by a student who has attended high school (or an equivalent program) for less than four school years is permitted, but only if the student has met the District's high school graduation requirements, is eligible to receive a high school diploma, and has met all of the following additional requirements:

1. The student, or, if the student is under age 18, the student's parent or guardian, must submit a written request for approval of early graduation, meet with a high school guidance counselor or a member of the school's administrative staff to discuss the potential advantages and disadvantages of early graduation, and receive the principal's approval for a plan that, if successfully completed, will satisfy the applicable graduation requirements.
2. After meeting with school staff, the student, or, if the student is under age 18, the student's parent or guardian, must provide written consent for early graduation.
3. Prior to graduating, the student must have completed a meaningful period of enrollment and attendance in the District high school or in a District-sponsored alternative education program. The minimum period of in-District attendance shall normally include the full credit-earning grading period that immediately precedes the student's graduation. An exception to this minimum period may be granted by the principal in extenuating circumstances provided that the principal determines that (1) the reason the student did not meet the requirement was reasonably beyond the control of the student and, if under the age of 18, the student's parent or guardian; and (2) instructional staff are able to make a sufficient assessment of the student's academic progress and performance.
4. Prior to graduating, the student must have attended a high school (or been enrolled in an equivalent educational program) for at least the equivalent of three complete school years, not including summer school.

When a student is already receiving the benefits of full-time enrollment and attendance, the student's desire to pursue early graduation does not, by itself, obligate the District to either (1) commit additional funds or other resources to facilitate the student's early graduation; or (2) provide or approve any special credit-earning opportunities or other special accommodations (including scheduling accommodations) beyond those that may be available through other established programs or processes. The District has discretion to approve or deny requests for certain program or curriculum modifications and may, for example, deny a request that the District determines involves a plan for completing graduation requirements that is not educationally sound and appropriate.

An early graduate will continue to be eligible for scholarships or other awards/honors, unless determined to be ineligible by the terms and conditions established for the particular award/honor.

An early graduate may not, thereafter, continue his/her attendance or participation in the District as a student. This includes participation in co-curricular activities, athletics, senior trips, or student events like prom (unless attending as the guest of a current student).

An early graduate may participate in the graduation ceremony for his/her graduating class. Upon approval of event organizers, an early graduate may participate in the parent-sponsored graduation party.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

- [Section 118.13](#) [student nondiscrimination]
- [Section 118.33\(1\)](#) [high school graduation requirements]
- [Section 120.13](#) [board and district authority regarding management of the district; including but not limited to student conduct and discipline]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

- [PI 9](#) [student nondiscrimination, including complaints and appeals]
- [PI 18](#) [high school graduation requirements]

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