

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE BOARD POLICY

INSTRUCTION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

EARLY GRADUATION

345.61

The Board of Education acknowledges that some students are pursuing educational goals which include graduation from high school at an earlier date than their designated class.

Application for early graduation will be submitted to the high school principal in accordance with school regulations. The District may honor this request if all conditions for graduation are met and the student fulfills the graduation requirements.

The student may participate in the graduation ceremonies with his/her designated class.

Cross Reference: High School Student Handbook, Graduation Requirement

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 District Administrator'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 a 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 District Administrator in extenuating circumstances provided that the District Administrator 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, full-time school terms. One school term is one school year, not including any summer school or interim session(s).
5. Minimum credit requirements will follow the Wisconsin State Statute PI 18.

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.

Early graduation may cause the loss of eligibility for certain scholarships or other awards/honors, as determined by the terms and conditions established for the particular award/honor.

After receiving a high school diploma as an early graduate, an early graduate may not, thereafter, continue his/her enrollment or attendance in the District as a student. In addition, an early graduate is ineligible to participate in District-sponsored activities that are offered to current students, except as follows:

1. If otherwise eligible, an early graduate may participate in the high school graduation ceremony that is held for the school year in which he/she earns a high school diploma.
2. If a student graduates early mid-year, the high school principal or District Administrator may, at their discretion, approve an early graduate's written request to participate in a particular school-sponsored activity, excluding athletics and co-curricular groups/clubs, that occurs prior to the end of such school year.
3. As expressly permitted under any other School Board policy, if any.

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]

First Reading: _____ *August 13, 2007*

Second Reading/Approval: _____ *September 10, 2007*

First Reading Update: _____ *May 9, 2016*

Second Reading/Approval: _____ *June 13, 2016*

First Reading Update: _____ *August 14, 2017*

Second Reading/Approval: _____ *September 11, 2017*

First Reading of Updates: _____ **April 14, 2025**

Second Reading/Approval of Updates: _____ **May 12, 2025**