

EARLY RELEASE GUIDELINES

RATIONALE

Increasingly diverse learning opportunities for high school students now make it possible for some students to complete graduation requirements in less than four years. Conversely, more than four years of the high school experience may be desirable for other students.

Both educational and personal considerations suggest that most students should remain in high school for eight semesters while completing requirements for graduation. The transition to post high school experiences generally requires skills, academic and emotional maturity, self-discipline and responsibility beyond that which students ordinarily possess at the end of grade eleven. Enrichment experiences on and off campus should be available within the high school program, particularly during the senior year, to compliment school course work, fulfill graduation requirements, and enhance the student's growth in his/her career choice. Early and delayed graduation are, therefore, appropriate and desirable for a limited number of students.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the four-year high school program is to provide students with a combination of academic, vocational and social experiences that will prepare him/her for entry into the world of work, further training and/or continued academic enrollment. In very few cases, a student, because of his/her educational abilities, vocational abilities or especially extenuating circumstances, may qualify for early graduation without completing the eight-semester requirement. The first question that should be addressed in each exceptional case is, "Has the student learned and taken advantage of all that high school has to offer?" Most students graduating from high school exceed minimum requirements because they are just that, a minimum. The student seeking early graduation should be truly exceptional.

Dickenson County Public Schools does not encourage attempts to complete a course of study for high school graduation in less than four full academic years. However, the Dickenson County School Board may accept modification of the four-year attendance requirement for high school graduation provided the student has satisfactorily completed the requirements for graduation as set forth by the State Board of Education and Dickenson County Public Schools.

PROCEDURE

I. Principal

All applications must be submitted to the building principal at least one semester prior to the proposed graduation date. Applications must be complete and accompanied by:

- a written letter of request for early graduation countersigned by parents or legal guardians if the student is a minor,

- a copy of the student's transcript,
- a copy of the student's current schedule, and
- proof or verification of the reason(s) or need(s) for early graduation.

The building principal will review the application and all pertinent information concerning the application. The building principal will forward the application and all attachments to the Superintendent.

II. Superintendent

The Superintendent or his/her designee will schedule a conference with the student and his/her parents or guardians within ten days after receiving the application for early graduation. The Superintendent will recommend the approval of or recommend the denial of the request for early graduation to the Dickenson County School Board.

III. School Board

The Dickenson County School Board will review the application for early graduation and approve or deny the request.

IV. Notification

The Superintendent will notify the building principal of the Dickenson County School Board's decision. The principal will then notify the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of the decision.

Adopted: August 25, 2010

DICKENSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST APPLICATION

Date: _____

School: _____

Student: _____

Grade: _____ D.O.B.: _____ Age: _____ Student #: _____

****Applications must be submitted at least one semester prior to the requested graduation date****

I am applying for early graduation: _____ After summer school
_____ After first semester senior year

My reason(s) for this request is:

- _____ Military
- _____ Employment
- _____ Medical
- _____ Full Time Enrollment in College
- _____ Other: _____

APPLICATION REVIEW

Attachments Included:

- Transcript
- Current Schedule
- Early Graduation Request Letter (Countersigned by Parent/Guardian)
- Verification Letter/Evidence to Support Request

(Principal's Signature)

(Date)

CONFERENCE

Notes:

Application Recommended for Approval Application NOT Recommended for Approval

(Superintendent's Signature)

(Date)

SCHOOL BOARD

Application Approved Application Denied

(Date)