

## Instruction

### Graduation Requirements

Unless otherwise exempted, each student must successfully accomplish the following in order to graduate from high school:

1. Complete all District graduation requirements that are in addition to the State requirements. Beginning with the 1986-87 school year, all courses in the curriculum will be valued at .5 credit per semester for one-hour classes and .25 credit per semester for half-hour classes. Graduation requirements are set at 19.50 credits beginning with the class of 1990 to the class of 2012. For the class of 2013, Graduation requirements are set at 20.5. Beginning with the class of 2014, Graduation requirements are set at 21. Among the credits necessary to graduate, a student must accumulate 15.00 credits from academic classes. **“Academic class”** means any course except physical education, driver education, and music performance. Students may also earn credit towards graduation through correspondence courses pre-approved by a counselor. For the 1994-95 school year, students may earn a maximum of 1.5 units of pre-approved correspondence credit. Beginning with the 1995-96 school year, correspondence course credit will be limited to the following:
  - A maximum of 1.0 pre-approved unit of credit may be earned.
  - Correspondence credit may not be earned for any course (including those with different titles but similar content) offered in District 201.
  - Students will normally be limited to one correspondence course per semester, which can be taken during the senior year only.
2. Complete all courses as provided in The School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-22, according to the year in which a student entered the 9th grade.
3. Complete all minimum requirements for graduation as specified by Illinois State Board of Education rule, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.
4. Pass an examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Take the Prairie State Achievement Examination, unless the student is exempt according to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for:

1. Maintaining a description of all course offerings that comply with the above graduation requirements.
2. Notifying students and their parents/guardians of graduation requirements.
3. Developing the criteria for determining when a student accomplishes number 4 above.
4. Complying with State law requirements for students who transfer during their senior year because their parent(s)/guardian(s) are on active military duty, this includes making reasonable adjustments to ensure graduation if possible, or efforts to ensure that the original (transferor) school district issues the student a diploma.
5. Taking all other actions to implement this policy.

### Academic Load

Students in grades 9 through 11 who wish to take more than the normal academic load of four subjects and physical education are required to maintain a "B" average for the prior semester. Exceptions may be made upon written approval of the building principal. The maximum academic load is five subjects. Seniors are not required to maintain a "B" average in order to take a fifth subject.

A sixth subject may be taken, with the approval of the building principal, by a senior who is behind in credits or by a junior or senior who receives a waiver of P.E. as allowed by state law and District policy. For juniors, the sixth class may be taken on an audit basis only.

No student is allowed to take seven subjects.

### Early Graduation

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures for students to graduate early, provided they finish 7 semesters of high school and meet all graduation requirements.

### Certificate of Completion

A student with a disability who has an Individualized Education Program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's 4 years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed 4 years of high school. The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her high school graduation class. The Superintendent or designee shall provide timely written notice of this requirement to children with disabilities and their parents/guardians.

### Veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict

Upon application, an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict will be awarded a diploma, provided that he or she: (1) resided within an area currently within the District at the time he or she left high school, (2) left high school before graduating in order to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, and (3) has not received a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) diploma.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64, 5/22-27, 5/27-3, 5/27-22, 5/27-22.10, and 70/  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency),  
7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District  
Schools)

ADOPTED: January 10, 2011