

Code: **IKFA**
Adopted: July 10, 2008

Early Graduation

A student who wishes to graduate from high school in less time than the ordinary grade 9-12 sequence may request permission to complete graduation requirements on an altered schedule. The student and his/her parents will consult with high school guidance personnel to develop a graduation plan. Their intention to accomplish this plan will be stated in writing to the superintendent and approved by the Board.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

Early Graduation Guidelines

The Board of Trustees of the Lincoln County School District encourages students to stay in high school for four years. The board believes there are educational, emotional, psychological, social, and academic benefits from attending high school. Attendance at high school for four years is prescribed by the Nevada State Board of Education, and the Lincoln County School Board supports this standard. Early graduation is an exception to the above stated four-year standard.

The Board of Trustees of the Lincoln County School District also values the diversity that makes each student unique and realizes that early graduation may be an exception that will best meet the student's needs. Therefore, the board will consider written requests for early graduation on an individual basis. However the principal and counselor should review with the parent(s) and student the following policies before they write their written requests to the board.

1. To be considered for early graduation a student must be on course to complete at least the minimum credit requirements for graduation prior to the scheduled graduation ceremony and have a 2.75 or higher GPA. The minimum graduation credit requirements are established by the Nevada State Board of Education and the Lincoln County School Board.

2. A student must pass all sections of the Nevada High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) prior to the graduation ceremony.

3. Any correspondence course(s) used toward early graduation, must have been previously approved by the principal prior to the course(s) being taken by the student.

4. Early graduation approval does not preclude or nullify the student promotion policy. Class standing is determined by credits earned. Early graduation could be defined in two ways; 1) by getting enough credits before the junior year to skip a grade and be classified as a senior, 2) by getting enough credits as a junior to be a junior graduating early.

The definition is determined by the number of credits a student has earned by the first day of their third school year. If a student is classified as a junior at the beginning of the school year and given approval to graduate early, the only senior activity they are allowed to participate in as part of the senior class is the graduation ceremony and yearbook picture sessions pertaining to the graduation ceremony. If a student graduating early is classified as a senior at the beginning of the school year, they have all the privileges of any other senior.

5. Based on the conclusions of the student's class standing as described in #4 above, if the student is classified as a senior, the student may become eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors provided that they meet the requirements of that policy. Juniors are not eligible for these honors.

One the above five policies have been reviewed with the student and parent(s), the following information should be drafted and presented to the board:

1. A statement of request and explanation with a signature by the student requesting early graduation. This request must be submitted by the end of the student 10th grade year to be considered a junior graduating early. Or, have the appropriate number of credits by the first day of their junior year to be considered a senior.

2. Information that includes evidence of achievement in academic or vocational areas of study, eg. A transcript of course work or a project portfolio.

3. An academic plan showing how the student will meet the minimum graduation requirements to receive a diploma. This plan might include a schedule of classes, correspondence courses to be taken, dates to take the HSPE, classes to be taken at a community college, etc.

4. A statement of request and explanation with a signature by the parent(s) or guardian requesting early graduation.

5. A letter of recommendation for early graduation by the principal.

The principal is responsible to get the student's early graduation request on the school board agenda as an action item. A copy of the above information should be provided for each board member and the superintendent. Finally, the request should be presented in person by the student to members of the school board.