

EARLY GRADUATION – REGULATIONS

Students planning to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree after high school should remember that being competitive for admissions consideration depends upon many factors. Taking more challenging courses than necessary to meet the minimum requirements for graduation is one such factor. This is particularly true when students apply for admissions to more competitive colleges.

Early graduation from high school is an option available to those students who feel they can benefit from such opportunity and who meet all graduation requirements.

There exist two early graduation opportunities:

1. A student intending to graduate at the end of the junior year should submit their application packet to the principal no later than June 1st of their sophomore year
2. A student intending to graduate at the end of the first semester of the senior year should submit their application packet to the principal no later than June 1st of their junior year.

Any application submitted after stated deadline, may be considered at the discretion of the superintendent or their designee.

An application will be provided to parent/guardian and student only following a meeting of all with the student's guidance counselor; the meeting will be a condition for beginning the process with the focus being a discussion of the family's goals for the parent/student and an examination of the pros and cons of this option.

Within four weeks of application, the principal will review the request and render a recommendation to the Superintendent based on the appropriateness of early graduation to the student's transition plan, the attainment of 22.5 credits, and the student meeting all prerequisites for early graduation. The Superintendent will review and may approve all recommendations by the principal. Parents/students will receive written notification of the decision.

In the event that the parent/student is unsatisfied with the decision, the student may appeal the decision to the School Board to be held in non-public at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The School Board will send written notification of the decision to the student within 10 days. The Board's decision is final.

If requirements are met in time for graduation at the end of the third year, the student may participate in June graduation exercises. If met by mid-year of the fourth year, a letter of certification will be given then, and the graduate may receive the diploma during the graduation exercise of his/her class, or separately without ceremony.

The Board will receive notification and review of parent/student application(s) for early graduation, if desired, on at least an annual basis.

Adopted: 06/21/10

Proposed: 10/15/18

Adopted: 11/05/18

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APPLICATION FOR EARLY GRADUATION

Student Name: _____

Original Graduation Year: _____ Date of Application: _____

Applying for early graduation (check one):

_____ at end of junior year (_____)

_____ at mid-senior year (_____)

Current teacher who knows you best: _____

Other teachers/staff who know you well: _____

Early Graduation Requirements

Early graduation is a rare occurrence designed to meet the needs of exceptional students and/or circumstances. Requests for early graduation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Applications are due no later than June 1st of the school year preceding the requested graduation date.

Application packet is to include:

- o This “Application for Early Graduation” signed by student and parent(s)
- o A student letter stating reasons for wanting to graduate early and future plans regarding education and employment
- o A letter of recommendation from student’s parent/guardian
- o A letter of support from student’s guidance counselor
- o A copy of student’s transcript with GPA
- o A copy of student’s current course schedule

We understand that this is only an application for early graduation consideration. Should the early graduation plan not be met, the student and parent will meet with the counselor to discuss a graduation plan. The school’s expectation is that the student would continue as a full time student at GHS until all graduation requirements are met.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____