

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 or vocational abilities, 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. Because a student has transferred from another District (system) that has allowed him/her to earn more credits than would be possible in the K.P.B.S.D., it is not an appropriate rationale for requesting early graduation. Early graduation requires substantial advanced planning. To be considered for early graduation, requests must be received at District Office no later than the last day of the quarter that precedes the proposed graduation date. Requests for early graduation will not be considered the same quarter as the proposed graduation.

- I. The student/parent initiates the request with the school counselor/principal. The counselor/principal considers the request and, if appropriate, schedules the request with the site intervention team. The counselor/principal assembles a packet for the I-Team including:
  - a. A letter of rationale by the student explaining the unique circumstances related to consideration for early graduation.
  - b. A letter of approval and support from the parent/guardian.
  - c. Student records including transcripts, test scores and graduation requirement check.
  - d. A confirmation of a postsecondary plan:
    1. A letter of acceptance from an institution offering advanced vocational or education training;
    2. Proof of full-time and continuous employment or;
    3. Evidence of engaging in an acceptable alternative program of education (world tour, correspondence study or other defined study program).
  - e. A letter from the counselor/principal confirming that state and Board of Education requirements can be met with the exception of eight semesters of attendance.
- II. The I-Team considers the acceleration request for early graduation, and if approved, forwards the request to the Superintendent. The request must include:
  - a. A copy of the intervention packet, which includes items I. a–e.
  - b. A letter of approval from the intervention team stating the rationale for consideration of the early graduation request signed by the I-Team chair and principal.
- III. The Superintendent considers the recommendation and, if appropriate, grants final approval.