

INSTRUCTION

Graduation Requirements

Each student must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete the following courses in order to graduate from high school:

1. Four years of language arts are required; including specifically a semester of speech, American Literature and a year-long course in Writing.
2. Two years of intensive writing must be successfully completed. One year must be an English course, and one year may be provided as a part of another appropriate course offering.
3. Three years of mathematics are required and must include one year of Algebra I and one year must be a course that includes geometry content. (Note: An Algebra I course taken at the middle school cannot be counted as meeting one of the three years of mathematics that high school students must complete in order to receive a diploma.)
4. Two years of science.
5. Two years of social studies, including specifically a year of the History of the United States and a semester of American Government;
6. One year chosen from music, art, modern language or vocational education. Credit in American Sign Language shall be considered an alternative to a modern language.
7. One-half credit in Technology.

In addition, no student shall receive a certificate of graduation without passing a satisfactory examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Building Principal is responsible for notifying students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) of the District's graduation requirements.

Academic Achievement

1. Twenty (20) units of credit shall be required for high school graduation.
2. Beginning with the Class of 2012 of the 20 units of credit required for high school graduation, credit shall be required as follows:

| <u>Units</u> | <u>Subjects</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| 4 | English, including speech, American literature and a writing course*** |
| 3 | Mathematics, including one course in Algebra I and one course that includes geometry content |
| 2 | Science |
| 2 | Social Studies - U.S. History, Civics (and an elective - Constitution Test) |
| 1/2 | Health |
| 1/4 | Driver Education - classroom |
| 1/2 | Consumer Education (or equivalent course/program) |
| 1/4 (per semester) | Physical Education |
| 1 | Elective (Music, Art, Vocational, Modern Language) |
| 1/2 | Technology** |

**Students are required to take a one semester technology course or a course designated to meet the technology requirement as designated by the administration.

***At least one year of intensive writing must be included in the courses completed.

Higher Education Enrollment

Fifteen semester hours of credit in a recognized institution of higher education shall be accepted as fulfilling the remaining requirements for high school graduation for any student who shall have been accepted for advance enrollment in such institution after having earned twelve units of credit at the high school level.

Grading and Graduation Requirements

The administration and professional staff shall establish a system of grading, develop procedures of reporting academic achievement to parents and students, and determine when the requirements for graduation have been met.

Alternative Education Program

Any student transferring from an Alternative Education Program and wishing to graduate and receive a diploma from Morton High School must be in attendance their last semester.

Morton High School students, who have enrolled in an Alternative Education Program, may appeal to the Superintendent for a waiver of this policy. This appeal should be submitted, in writing, no later than the semester prior to the semester of anticipated graduation. A student who has had this policy waived shall receive a Morton High School diploma, which indicates graduation from an Alternative Education Program.

Attendance Requirement for Diploma

With the noted exception of Morton High School students placed in an Alternative Education Program, students wishing to graduate and receive a diploma from Morton High School must be in attendance as a full-time student their last semester.

The Superintendent may waive this requirement for pre-approved modern exchange experiences.

Early Graduation

Students must apply to their counselor five weeks (mid-term) prior to their intended early graduation date. Students can graduate early only at the end of a semester. Written acknowledgment from the parent(s)/guardian(s) must be included.

Notification of the student's request and verification of the student's acceptability for early graduation will be given to the Superintendent by the principal. Students may only graduate early after 7 semesters.

Students with Disabilities Participation in Graduation Ceremony

Beginning with the 2004-05 school year, a high school student with a disability who has an individualized education program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's four years of high school, and who has completed four years of high school at the end of a school year and is not otherwise eligible to receive a high school diploma, may receive a Certificate of Completion that reflects the student's completion of four years of high school. The student with a disability may also participate in the graduation ceremony with the high school's graduating class, receiving the Certificate of Completion in lieu of a diploma during the graduation ceremony. The student with a disability may receive a Certificate of Completion after completing four

years of high school regardless of whether the student participates in the graduation ceremony.

The high school administration shall provide timely and meaningful written notice to each student with a disability and to the student's parents or guardians about this policy so the student with a disability will have sufficient opportunity to participate in the graduation ceremony and to receive a Certificate of Completion.

Veterans of World War II or the Korean Conflict

Upon application, an honorably discharged veteran of World War II or the Korean 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 GED (high school equivalency).

Re-enrollment

Re-enrollment shall be denied to any individual above the age of 17 years who has dropped out of school and who could not earn sufficient credits during the normal school year(s) to graduate before his or her 21st birthday. A person denied re-enrollment will be provided counseling and be directed to alternative educational programs, including adult education programs that lead to graduation or receipt of a GED diploma.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/26-2, 5/27-3, and 5/27-22 [Ill. Rev. Stat., ch. 122, §§ 27-3 and 27-22].
23 Ill. Admin. Code § 1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6.30, 6.320, 6:300-E (Application for a Diploma for Veterans of WWII or the Korean Conflict), 6:320 (Credit for Proficiency), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers from Non-District Schools)

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