AR 6146.1 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SUBSTITUTION OF CREDIT

A principal may substitute as many as two units of elective credit.

1. Athletics = PE Credit

   Participation for a full season in athletics would count as a PE course toward the requirement of Basic PE or the elective credit for PE. The amount of credit would be contingent upon the number of hours the student spent involved in the athletic activity. 90 hours, combined of practice and competition time would be equivalent to 1/2 credit of PE. No student may earn more than 1/2 credit per semester of PE through this method.

2. Drama Credit = English Credit

   Students taking a role in a high school theater production would count as a course toward a 1/2 elective credit. The number of contact hours required in participation of the activity will mean 90 contact hours spent rehearsing together as a cast in the presence of the drama coach and the actual production.

   The Drama Coach will provide a syllabus/criteria for the course and verification for the number of contact hours for each participant. An evaluation of each student's participation and performance will be provided along with a letter grade.

EARLY GRADUATION

A student who, for sound educational and vocational reasons. 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. Their intention to accomplish this will be stated in writing to the principal. The principal will submit the request to the superintendent who will provide it to the Board for either information or approval if less than 7 semesters, for all early graduation requests.

Requirements: The candidate must have:

1. completed seven semesters of high school attendance:
2. satisfied all of the requirements of a four-year graduate:
3. earned at least a "B" average at the end of the sixth semester:
4. qualified by virtue of extenuating circumstances or special goals.
5. ~~passed the 3 sections' of the HSCQE.~~

Procedures: If the applicant meets the above requirements, the student will submit a written request for early graduation to the high school principal, preferable during the sixth semester but no later than October I of the seventh semester. The request must contain: a statement of endorsement and the signatures of the parents or legal guardian, and must clearly express the reasons for the request.

The matter will be thoroughly reviewed in conference to include the student, counselor, parents, and the high school principal. After a complete evaluation of the request, the principal will forward recommendations to the superintendent for consideration and Board action.

Graduation: If early graduation is approved, the student may participate in commencement exercises on the same basis as other graduates. Students who do not participate in commencement will receive their diplomas as soon as practical after the exercises.

GRADUATION OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

The Board of Education desires to provide equal educational opportunity for all students, including those with exceptional learning needs. Therefore. exceptional students successfully completing a plan of high school study will be awarded a standard high school diploma and will be allowed to participate in all graduation activities with the regular student body.

To remove any stigma or label associated with special education programming and to foster maximum development of a student's potential, the graduation of an exceptional student will require successful completion of the same number of credits required of all other students.

All exceptional students will receive instruction in English, Mathematics, US History, science, physical education, and health for the credits specified as requirements for graduation. In addition to this instruction in core areas, exceptional students are required to take electives to complete the necessary numbers of credits for Graduation. Successful completion of the requirements for a certain number of credits may be accomplished in various ways, for example:

1. Institution of specialized courses subject to Board approval.
2. Tutorial assistance in existing courses
3. Modifications of requirements for existing courses
4. Through a pass-fail system for certain courses.

Program modification for exceptional students will be the responsibility of the ~~planning and placement~~ IEP team and is based on an exhaustive assessment of the needs and suitability of program options for any given child.

Options available for meeting established requirements for students with IEPs:

1. ~~Pupils~~ Students may be graduated with the minimum number of required units of credit listed by the state department of education. the minimum number of required units approved by this Board, or alternative programs equivalent to a regular program that are designed to meet individual needs and developed with administrative approval.

2. Most ~~handicapped pupils~~ students with disabilities must meet the basic requirements.

3. Adjustments of credit, based on fulfillment of individual education program (IEP) objectives, may be made ~~at the discretion of the principal with advice from the program coordinator and teacher.~~ By an IEP team. Adjustments of credit requirements must be communicated to the principal and counselor, and prior to graduation, the principal must inform the superintendent, who will notify the Board.

It is assumed that prospective employers of high school graduates usually will seek additional information on an applicant if there are any questions about qualifications for a given position.

The School District will provide such information in accordance with student requests and its policy on student records.

Due to the uniqueness of programs for exceptional students and the implications accompanying this policy on high school graduations a number of parent conferences will be held during a child's enrollment in the high school. The guidelines below suggest only minimum parent contact.

1. Initial conference - freshman year to discuss planned program and to explain graduation policy.

2. Final conference - prior to graduation to review program and to reassert the intent of high school graduation policy.

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance and Counseling Services)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC06.075 High school graduation requirements

Adopted: June 10, 2003

Nome Public Schools