

# *Document Status: Draft Update*

## INSTRUCTION

### **6:300 Graduation Requirements**

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the achievement of District goals and objectives, those prescribed by State law, as well as personal proficiency by the awarding of a diploma at fitting graduation ceremonies. Students may be denied participation in the graduation ceremonies at the discretion of the Board.

To graduate from high school, unless otherwise exempted, each student is responsible for:

1. Completing all District graduation requirements that are in addition to the State requirements.
2. Completing all courses as provided in the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-22. [PRESSPlus1](#)
3. Completing all minimum requirements for graduation as specified in State law ~~by Illinois State Board of Education rule, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.~~
4. Passing an examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Participating in State assessments that are required for graduation by State law ~~by the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c).~~ [PRESSPlus2](#)
6. ~~Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, f~~ Filing one of the following: (1) a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Dept. of Education, (2) an application for State financial aid, or (3) an Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) waiver form indicating that the student understands what these aid opportunities are and has chosen not to file an application. If the student is not at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student's parent/guardian must file one of these documents on the student's behalf.

A student is exempt from this requirement if: (1) the student is unable to file a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver due to extenuating circumstances, (2) the Building Principal attests the District made a good faith effort to assist the student or the student's parent/guardian with filing a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver form, and (3) the student has met all other graduation requirements.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for:

1. Maintaining a description of all course offerings that comply with the above graduation requirements.
2. Notifying students and their parents/guardians of graduation requirements.
3. Developing the criteria for #4 above.
4. Complying with State law requirements for students who transfer during their senior year because their parent(s)/guardian(s) are on active military duty. This includes making reasonable adjustments to ensure graduation if possible, or efforts to ensure that the original (transferor) school district issues the student a diploma.
5. Taking all other actions needed or necessary to implement this policy.

### Early Graduation

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures for students to graduate early, provided they finish seven semesters of high school and meet all graduation requirements.

The Board of Education recognizes that some students may be pursuing educational goals which include graduation at an earlier date than their designated class. The Board does not encourage this practice as it believes that there are important experiences that students can benefit from by completing high school classes and activities on a regular rather than an accelerated schedule.

Any student who has completed all graduation requirements and desires to graduate early is to submit their application to the principal who shall have the authority to act for the Board in examining the request and decide whether or not it is in the best interests of the student to abbreviate their high school career through early graduation.

### Certificate of Completion

A 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, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed four years of high school. The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her high school graduation class. The Superintendent or designee shall provide timely written notice of this requirement to children with disabilities and their parents/guardians.

### Service Member Diploma

The District will award a diploma to a service member who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the U.S. Armed Forces or an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict, provided that they (1) resided within an area currently within the District at the time they 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.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5](#), [5/22-27](#), [5/27-3](#), [5/27-22](#), and [5/27-22.10](#).

[105 ILCS 70/](#), Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440](#).

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:310 (High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students), 6:315 (High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

### **PRESSPlus Comments**

[PRESSPlus 1](#). The Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) may adopt rules modifying graduation requirements for students in grades 9-12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency under 20 ILCS 3305/7. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(i), added by P.A. 101-643. **Issue 106, November 2020**

[PRESSPlus 2](#). 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A.s 100-7, 100-1046, and 101-643. Assessments are not required if ISBE receives a waiver from the administration of assessments from the U.S. Dept. of Education. **Issue 106, November 2020**