

Unity School District - Board of Education

Board Policy 431.1

Early Graduation

Last Revised 9/11/2018

The Board of Education believes that the broadening and expanding high school curriculum should provide the students with an opportunity to broaden their educational background, not shorten their high school experiences. Consequently, the Board of Education encourages students to continue to attend through their senior year and participate in the expansive course offerings, including online learning opportunities and early college credit options when necessary.

The Board of Education authorizes the District Administrator to devise procedures for the consideration of granting an early graduation of a student upon meeting the necessary graduation requirements.

For those students who have unique needs or goals and who would benefit from early graduation, the following policy is established:

REQUIREMENTS:

The early graduation candidate must have:

1. Completed 10 trimesters of high school attendance.
2. Met all other graduation requirements.
3. A grade point average of at least 3.0 in the three trimesters prior to graduation (extenuating circumstances may be considered).
4. No truancy, attendance or discipline issues in the three trimesters of school prior to graduation.
5. Shown evidence of plans for full time involvement in further education, employment or other special goals.
6. Family emergencies shall receive special consideration.

The following procedure for obtaining approval for early graduation must be followed:

1. The student must file a written request with the counselor by September 15.
2. The written approval of the parents or legal guardian with signatures must be submitted.
3. The reason for the request must be clearly stated.
4. The matter will be reviewed by the student and counselor.
5. Early graduation will only be considered for the end of a trimester.
6. A conference involving the student, parents, counselor and principal will be held.
7. The request, along with the principal's recommendation, is forwarded to the District Administrator.
8. The counselor, principal and District Administrator will meet collectively to approve or deny the request.

9. The principal will contact the parents of the student within two days of a decision and will inform them of the decision.
10. If denied, the student and parents may appeal the decision in writing to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will review the request at its next regularly scheduled meeting in closed session.

Further Procedures:

1. Class rank for students approved for early graduation will be finalized upon calculation of class rank for the entire graduating class utilizing the early graduate's grades at the time he/she leaves.
2. Students who graduate early will not be permitted to take part in any organized school activity except for those open to the general public. While visiting the District they will be expected to follow all procedures required of other adults in the community. Early graduates may enroll in higher education classes at the university, colleges, or technical schools. All courses, fees, and financial obligations become the responsibility of the early graduate, not the Unity School District.
3. Commencement exercises will only be held at the end of the academic year. However, a senior graduating after two trimesters may be permitted to participate in the regular spring commencement activities. A senior graduating after one trimester may be permitted to participate in regular spring commencement activities only if it is approved by the principal at the time of the original request for early graduation.