

Graduation Requirements

To graduate from Harlem High School, including participation in the graduation ceremony, students must earn 24 credits for any graduating class with a base year beginning 2021 and beyond. Students may not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies if they have outstanding expenses due to the District. One-half (.5) credit is given for completing course requirements for each eighteen week semester. Grade Point Average (GPA) and class rank are computed at the end of each semester starting with Grade 9. The earned credits will include the required courses listed below plus electives. The School Board determines high school graduation requirements that will provide each student ample opportunity to achieve the goals for which the School District exists and that meet the minimum graduation requirements contained in State law. Unless otherwise exempted, each student must successfully accomplish the following in order to graduate from high school:

Graduation Requirements beginning Fall 2020
4.0 English/ Writing *
3.0 Mathematics **
2.5 Science
2.5 Social Science
.5 Consumer Education or Economics
.5 Health
.5 Career Development
10.5 Electives ***
24 Total Credits

A student must be enrolled in at least two semesters of Physical Education, Health, Driver Education, or Marching Band for each year enrolled in Grades 9-12. Exceptions can be found in policy 6:310 and require prior approval by the building principal or designee.

*The state requires students to complete two years of writing intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.

**The state requires students to complete three years of mathematics, one of which must be Algebra and one of which must include geometry content.

*** The state requires students to complete at least one year of Art, Business/Computer Technology, World Language, Family & Consumer Science, Technical Education, or Music before receiving the high school diploma. Based on academic need a student may be placed in a required academic intervention in lieu of an elective credit.

Students enrolled in the Running Start Program will have the Harlem High School graduation requirements or their equivalent.

Passing an examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

A student must participate in State assessments that are required for graduation by the School Code, [105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5\(c\)](#)

Placement in Advanced Course Levels

A student request for initial enrollment in advanced levels of a course sequence (for example, requesting enrollment in Spanish 2 without having taken Spanish 1) shall be considered by the principal, or designee, at his or her discretion. If permitted by the school principal, proficiency may be determined only after successful completion by the student of any appropriate proficiency examination(s) designated by the school administration. A student placement in advanced course levels under this program will not be granted course credit for the lower level courses except as provided otherwise in Board Policy.

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 examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance..
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.

Correspondence Classes and Graduation

If a student does not complete his/ her graduation requirements, including correspondence classes and correspondence final exams by the last day of the current school year, then they must return to Harlem High School in August of the following school year to complete all of their remaining course requirements while attending HHS.

Early Graduation

A student applying for early graduation must complete 3 ½ years of high school and meet the following requirements: Successful completion of all course and credit requirements for graduation and must show proof of immediate enrollment at an institution of higher learning or have a military obligation that begins prior to the end of the current school year.

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 4 years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed 4 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.

The School Code and State regulations provide that certain courses must be completed as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, except for students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by their IEPs. Therefore, a student with disabilities can receive a high school diploma if provided in his/her IEP as per [105 ILCS 5/27-22](#)(e) and (g); [23 III. Admin Code 51.440](#)(c).

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 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.

APPROVED: