

EARLY GRADUATION

Descriptor	IKFA	Issued	Draft 3/18/2011
Rescinds *	IFKA	Issued	5/12/1998

BOARD POLICY

1. Early graduation involves the completion of all high school academic requirements in less than a traditional four-year program. ~~and is not encouraged in the Tupelo Public School District. A student applying for early graduation will meet the same standards required of all four year graduates of Tupelo High School.~~ Any high school student who will complete the number of Carnegie units and other exiting standards required by both the state and the District prior to completing eight (8) semesters of high school work may petition to graduate early.

2. Early graduation will be permitted under circumstances where the student will benefit from early graduation. Early graduates may participate in the regular spring commencement ceremony.

3. The intent of this policy is to provide an opportunity for the student to improve his/her educational or vocational future by graduating from high school with less than eight semesters of attendance in grades nine through twelve.

4. The Board authorizes the superintendent to establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

1. Eligibility

1.1. To be eligible for early graduation, a student must meet the graduation requirements listed in District policy (IKF).

1.2. The student must have no grade lower than "C" in any required course at the time of application.

2. Application

2.1. A student and his/her parents may make application to the high school principal ~~applying for early graduation. should file an application with the principal. no later than the end of the sophomore year.~~ The Application for Early Graduation Application form is available through the counseling office and is attached to this policy as an exhibit.

2.2. Applications will be accepted from students during their sophomore or junior year. Additionally, seniors graduating in 2012 or 2013 affected

by the implementation of the block schedule, may also apply for early graduation.

2. Conference

2.1. A The student who plans to graduate early will schedule a conference with his/her the student's counselor to: and parent or guardian to arrange a course plan. (a) review the application procedure and student's records, and determine if early graduation is possible, and (b) discuss the reason(s) for early graduation in view of the student's educational and/or vocational goals.

2.2. Following this conference, the counselor will schedule a meeting with the student, the student's parent/guardian and the Early Graduation Committee to discuss the student's application for early graduation.

3. Early Graduation Committee

3.1. The principal will appoint an standing Early Graduation Committee each year to examine all requests applications for early graduation and make a final decision whether to approve as to the validity of the student's request.

3.2. Members of the committee will be the principal, a guidance counselor, and three classroom teachers.

3.3. The following items must be submitted to the committee:

3.3.1. A formal letter outlining the reason(s) for the early graduation request, as well as an outlined plan to meet all graduation requirements;

3.3.2. A plan for post-graduation that includes goals and objectives;

3.3.3. A letter from a parent/guardian supporting the application.

3.4. Factors to be considered in evaluating the request include: stated reason(s) for requesting early graduation, recommendations secured by the student from five three current or former high school teachers, the intellectual and academic qualifications of the student, social and emotional maturity of the student, evidence of a well-planned post-high school program within the student's ability to achieve, parent/guardian support, and any other relevant factors. the completion of three semesters at Tupelo High School immediately preceding graduation, and a minimum B or 87 average in all courses attempted at Tupelo High School.

3.5. The committee will render a decision on a timely basis, where possible, within 30 days of the meeting with the applicant. prior to the end of the first term of the junior year of the student.

3.6. If the decision request is denied, the committee will justify the decision in writing to the parent/guardian of the student.

3.7. The decision of the committee will be final.

4. Final Action on Application for Early Graduation

4.1. Any student aggrieved by the decision of the committee may appeal to the superintendent. The student or parent/guardian shall provide the application, the student's transcript and all items listed in section 3.3 above to the superintendent with the request for appeal.

4.2. The superintendent or designee will review the submission and render a decision on a timely basis, where possible, within 30 days of receipt of the appeal.

4.3. The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

5. Under special circumstances, a student who will have successfully completed all courses required for graduation and all state mandated assessments will be allowed to graduate early without having completed the application process.

6. Approval of Early Graduation Request

Should the application be approved, the following requirements will be instituted:

6.1. All subsequent courses required for graduation must be taken at Tupelo High School with a minimum of a "C" average maintained in these courses.

6.2. Quarterly meetings will be held with the student's guidance counselor to monitor progress. A student's plan may be terminated or adjusted at any meeting if criteria are not being met.

6.3. If the request for early graduation is approved and all requirements for graduation are completed, the high school principal will issue the student's diploma at the regular spring graduation ceremony.

EXHIBITS

None

REFERENCES

None

FORMS

IKFA 1.0311 Application for Early Graduation

***RESCINDS**

IKFA Issued 5/12/1998