

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS POLICY 3 - EARLY GRADUATION

MHSD Board of Trustees understands that there are exceptions to the traditional graduation requirements and procedures; therefore, the MHSD Board of Trustees has adopted the following requirements for high school students to graduate **prior to completing eight (8) semester of high school and** earlier than the spring of their senior year; early graduation is considered on a case-by-case basis set forth in this policy.

At the beginning of the school year, any junior or senior qualified to graduate early **in accordance with this policy** must contact their class counselor and school principal to start the early graduation process. Only juniors and seniors who want to graduate early to start their college **and career professions careers** may apply, or if there are extenuating circumstances that qualify as hardship as defined in item #6. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

All early graduation applications must be received by the superintendent or clerk of the board no later than the Tuesday prior to the regular board meeting in October of each year.

The student is required to complete the early graduation application, stating the calculated number of credits and reason for the application.

The student and parent/guardian will meet with the counselor, who will review the application and counsel the student. The counselor will determine, on the basis of credits earned, whether the student has the opportunity to complete the required number of semester credits and core of instruction prior to the proposed early graduation date.

The counselor will inform the principal of the request and supply all pertinent information concerning the application. The superintendent, principal, and counselor will determine whether to recommend the approval or denial of the application. The superintendent will submit the recommendation to the board.

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR EARLY GRADUATION

1. Only junior and senior high students may apply for early graduation or if there are extenuating circumstances that qualify as hardship as defined in item #9 #6.
2. **Student must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.**
3. Obtain permission from a parent or guardian, if under the age of eighteen (18) years.
4. The student must have or will have prior to the end of 2nd semester of their junior year or 1st semester of their senior year completed **the:**
 - a. **Civics requirement as established in Idaho Code §33-1602**
 - b. **Completed the economics credit as required by the State Board**
 - c. **Completed the government credits as required by the State Board**
 - d. **Completed their Senior Project requirements as required by the State Board, provided that the student’s senior project may describe the student’s experience in achieving a college and career readiness score and include a detailed explanation of the student’s future plans**
 - e. Completed the required fifty (50) credits for MHHS or the required forty-six (46) credits for BMHS, as governed by the Graduation Policy and Procedure before or by the end of the school year in which they apply for early graduation.
5. Students are required to take and successfully complete upper level and/or dual credit core courses.
6. **Students must achieve a college and career readiness score, which is the minimum score on a college entrance examination, such as the ACT, SAT or other similar examination identified by the Idaho State Board of Education (the “State Board”), indicating that the**

60 student is academically ready to advance to an institution of higher education or to an
61 occupation or occupational training, as determined by the State Board.

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63 7. The student must have a 3.5 GPA or higher and want to graduate early to start their college
64 career to qualify for early graduation.

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66 a. All courses taken through any accredited correspondence and/or virtual high school will
67 be included in the student's transcript no matter if the course was passed or not and will be
68 averaged into the student's GPA.

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70 b. The student must also submit an Early Graduation Request Package to the Board of
71 Trustees as described in item #10 #7, and include their plans for **post**-secondary education.

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73 8. Students may only have one (1) Petition of Credit(s) on file for non-medical or hardship
74 reasons (see item #9 #6). Students who have filed a Petition of Credit(s) for any other reason
75 or students who have filed more than one (1) Petition of Credit(s) due to medical or hardship
76 reasons are ineligible for early graduation.

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78 or

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80 9. The student must have a hardship case in which early graduation benefits the student and/or
81 student's family provided the student meets all graduation requirements.

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83 a. Hardship is defined as:

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- 85 • The student is relied upon to bring in money to the family through employment.
- 86 • The student is or will be the care provider to sick and/or elderly and/or disabled
87 parents/guardians or other family members living with the student in which the student
88 will be relied upon for assistance.

89 • The student will be unable to complete the remainder of the school year due to illness,
90 middle of the school year military transfer, pregnancy, or other permanent or temporary
91 disability.

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93 b. The student will also be required to submit an Early Graduation Request Package as
94 described in item #10 #7, and include the reason for the hardship and how an early
95 graduation would benefit the student and/or student's family.

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97 10. The student must submit an Early Graduation Request Package to the Board of Trustees no
98 later than the Tuesday before the regularly scheduled October board meeting or if deemed
99 necessary by the Board of Trustees the Tuesday before the next regularly scheduled board
100 meeting. No Early Graduation Request Package will be accepted after the December board
101 meeting, unless a student qualifies in one of the hardship areas listed in item #9 #6.

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103 a. The request package must contain:

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105 • **The student must write an essay of at least one (1) page explaining why the student**
106 **wishes to graduate early and outlining the student's future education or training**
107 **plans if the student graduates early.** ~~A formal letter from the student requesting early~~
108 ~~graduation and explaining the reason for wanting the early graduation along with their~~
109 ~~proposed post-secondary education plans for after graduation.~~

110 • A formal letter from the student's parents/guardian giving the reason for their support
111 of their student graduating early.

112 • A formal letter from the student's counselor supporting the student's early graduation
113 request.

114 • A formal letter from the school principal supporting the student's early graduation
115 request.

116 • **The student's participation portfolio, which is a description of the student's**
117 **nonacademic and co-curricular activities, including, but not limited to, student**
118 **government, sports, music ensembles, theater, clubs, organizations, work,**

119 **internships and volunteering, and including any leadership positions a student**
120 **holds in such nonacademic activities;**

- 121 • A copy of the latest high school transcript and/or report card, the most current college
- 122 transcript(s) reflecting the course/credit information from courses the student has
- 123 enrolled in, and any current transcripts from online courses the student has enrolled in.
- 124 • A copy of the latest attendance record.
- 125 • A copy of the student’s demographics reflecting the student’s full name, grade, address,
- 126 and parent’s names.
- 127 • Any other pertinent information that might help the Board with their decision.

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129 **11. At the Board’s request, the student and student’s parents or guardian may be required to**
130 **must** attend the regular board meeting in which Early Graduation will be addressed during the
131 Executive Session of the board meeting.

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- 133 a. The student will be notified by the high school of the date and time to appear before the
- 134 board meeting; the student and parents/guardians are welcome to attend the entire board
- 135 meeting if they wish.

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137 **An eligible student may, at the student’s option and upon notification to the student’s**
138 **school, be relieved from completing any remaining high school graduation requirements**
139 **and graduate early. The board of trustees will grant a high school diploma to eligible**
140 **students who opt for early graduation under this policy. Early graduates may participate**
141 **in the regular commencement ceremony.**

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143 **Any high school student, regardless of age or whether such student plans on attending**
144 **college or a career technical education program, who completes the number of credits and**
145 **other exiting standards required by both the State Board and the district prior to**
146 **completing eight (8) semesters of high school work may petition the superintendent and**
147 **board of trustees to graduate early.**



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151 **LEGAL REFERENCE:**

152 Idaho Code §33-6104 – Early Graduation

153 Idaho Code 33-4602(5) – Advanced Opportunities – Rulemaking

154 IDAPA 08.02.01.350 – Early Graduation

155 IDAPA 08.02.03.104 (August 14, 2014) – Other Required Instruction

156 IDAPA 08.02.03.105 (August 14, 2014) – High School Graduation Requirements

157 IDAPA 08.02.03.106 – Advanced Opportunities

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160 **ADOPTED: April 19, 2011**

161 Revised: November 15, 2011

Revised: April 15, 2014

Revised: November 19, 2019

162 Revised: