

Instruction

Graduation Requirements 1

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
2. Completing all courses as provided in The School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-22, according to the year in which a student entered the 9th grade. ³
3. Completing all minimum requirements for graduation as specified 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. ⁴
5. Taking the Prairie State Achievement Examination, unless the student is exempt according to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64. ⁵

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for: ⁶

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 to implement this policy.

Early Graduation 7

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures for students to graduate early, provided they finish 7 semesters of high school and meet all graduation requirements.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² Optional (23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(f). A school board should ensure that any district graduation requirements that are in addition to the State requirements are aligned with the district educational objectives. See policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*.

³ 105 ILCS 5/27-22 contains escalating graduation requirements depending on the year a student enters 9th grade. For specific requirements, see 6:300-E2, *State Law Graduation Requirements*.

⁴ Required by 105 ILCS 5/27-3.

⁵ Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64(c), amended by P.A. 96-430. The law makes *taking* the PSAE a prerequisite to receiving a "regular high school diploma." These terms are susceptible to numerous interpretations that might trigger good board conversation leading to a common understanding that will guide the superintendent's implementation efforts.

⁶ Items #1 and #2 are required by 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(d) and (e), respectively. Item #3 must be addressed because the law leaves many implementation issues unanswered. A comprehensive Student Handbook can provide notice of the district's graduation requirements, conduct rules, and other important information. Item #4 includes discussion of the adjustments required by the Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act, 105 ILCS 70/35(d), added by P.A. 96-953.

⁷ This is optional. State law and rules are silent regarding early graduation.

Certificate of Completion **8**

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.

Veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict **9**

Upon application, an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict will be awarded a diploma, 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 or General Educational Development (GED) diploma.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64, 5/22-27, 5/27-3, 5/27-22, 5/27-22.10, and 70/
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency),
7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District
Schools)

8 Required by 105 ILCS 5/14-16.

9 Optional. 105 ILCS 5/22-27, amended by P.A. 96-88, does not designate a time requirement for when the veteran "resided within an area currently within the district." Thus, a reasonable interpretation may be adopted locally. The sample policy designates "at the time he or she left high school" as the pertinent time for residence. See 6:300-E, *Application for a Diploma for Veterans of WWII, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict*.