

Status: ADOPTED

Policy GRAD-001: Authority for Local School Boards to Exceed Minimum Graduation Requirements

Original Adopted Date: 08/10/1978 | Last Revised Date: 10/06/2022 | Last Reviewed Date: 10/06/2022

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Policy Manual

Item	Description
Policy Title	Authority for Local School Boards to Exceed Minimum Graduation Requirements Process for Early Graduation from High Schools
Policy Category	Graduation Requirements and Related Policies (GRAD)
Policy ID	GRAD-001
Policy Date	10/06/2022* 10/6/2023
Previous Policy Dates	08/10/1978, 10/01/2009, 03/27/2020, 10/6/2022
Statutory Reference	HB 259

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, the State Board of Education (SBE) no longer provides clear and specific authority to local boards of education to exceed the minimum requirements for graduation established by the State Board of Education. **Local Boards of Education may provide recommendations for additional requirements.**

A high school student in a public school unit who is at least 16 years of age and desires to graduate after three years may request to graduate after three years of being in high school accordance with the following procedures:

- 1. The student shall complete and sign a request form provided by the local board. The form must be signed by the student’s parent or legal guardian, unless the student is at least 18 years of age or has been emancipated in accordance with Chapter 7B, Article 35 of the General Statutes.**
- 2. An administrator from the student’s high school or the local school administrative unit shall meet with the student and, if the student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated, the student’s parent or legal guardian, to discuss the implications of graduating in three years. The**

administrator shall address, at minimum, the following topics in the discussion:

- a. Plans for transitioning into higher education, employment, or enlistment in the armed forces;
- b. Discontinued access to high school services and programming, including extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics; and
- c. School support structures which will no longer be available to the student, such as nutrition and school counseling services.

3. The local school administrative unit shall verify that the student has met the minimum graduation requirements established by the State Board and submit the request to the local superintendent for final approval.

4. The local superintendent shall approve the request upon verification of the student's eligibility and compliance with the procedures set forth above, no later than 45 school days after receipt of a request.

- If the request is approved during the semester after classes have started, the student may elect to graduate immediately or graduate at the end of the semester.
- If the student submits the request before the first day of school, the student shall be required to complete the current semester, unless the local superintendent approves an early graduation.

****SBE approved removing COVID-19 Extenuating Circumstances Statement***