KEARNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Pursuing Excellence Today for Tomorrow

Request for an adjustment to Board Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements

The policy currently states that students must:

"Earn a minimum of three credits from the Kearney R-I School District's education program in the graduating year and be enrolled with the Kearney R-I School District at the time final credits are earned. To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, a student must be enrolled at Kearney High School as a full-time student prior to and continuously following the tenth school day of the student's senior year. Additionally, students who transfer in more than three credits from non-traditional programming may be excluded from class rank and/or eligibility for valedictorian or salutatorian honors."

This policy was created to ensure students who transfer into Kearney High School from non-accredited school settings cannot transfer in all but 1/2 credit and earn a Kearney High School diploma based on that ½ KHS credit. The policy is still important for this purpose as KSDR-1 works with transfer students from non-accredited settings to be sure they have the educational opportunities to which they are entitled while still protecting the integrity of the KHS diploma.

The requested adjustment would require students to have earned 3 credits from Kearney High School prior to senior year but not limit the time frame to senior year. This adjustment would only apply to students who have earned three prior Kearney High School credits junior year and do not need three full credits their 2020-2021 senior year to complete their graduation requirements. This adjustment would allow, for this year, seniors to graduate with a partial schedule semester 1 but still protect the integrity of the KHS diploma. At this time these students would still be removed from class rank and not be candidates for valedictorian or salutatorian.

The request is made to continue our efforts to be student-focused during this pandemic and would only apply to seniors. Allowing students to graduate with a part-time schedule senior

Matthew S. Miller, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Jeff Morrison
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT • HUMAN RESOURCES • STUDENT SERVICES

Ginger Elsea
BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER

Heather Guilkey
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Jennifer Kopp
DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

Dave Schwarzenbach
DISTRICT ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

816.628.4116 • FAX 816.628.4074 | 150 W State Route 92 • Kearney, MO 64060 | www.ksdr1.net

year, but still 3 Kearney credits earned, addresses both financial and mental health concerns for students as impacted by the current health crisis. Students can take a partial schedule and, therefore, have flexibility with work hours to assist with family financial needs and/or college or technical school finances. Also, we have recognized the correlation between COVID19 and increased mental health concerns, whether related to anxiety, PTSD, depression, etc. Allowing seniors to graduate with fewer than three credits earned senior year means these students do not have to commit time and personal resources to elective courses they do not need for graduation, possibly reducing the stressors they are encountering related to COVID19.

This is a request for the current health crisis only, not a recommendation to change policy for future years. The request works to protect the integrity of the Kearney High School diploma and respect student needs as generated by the current pandemic.