

## Overview: Early Graduation from High School

### Related State Board of Education (SBE) Policies

- [GRAD-001 Process for Early Graduation from High Schools](#)
- [GRAD-006 Accelerated Pathway for Early Graduation in Three Years](#)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***Based on legislation and SBE policies:***

#### **Why is it important for a student who plans to graduate in three years to inform the LEA when registering for Grade 9 classes?**

This is critical so that the LEA can work with the student/family in determining the appropriate sequence of courses to meet that goal starting in Grade 9. See GRAD-006.

#### **Can a student graduate early even if they did not declare it in Grade 9?**

YES. Please see GRAD-001 for the process for early graduation from high school. This process is available for all students, as long as the requirements set forth in the policy are met.

#### **Can a student still graduate in 3 ½ years, in December of their senior year?**

YES. A student may still graduate in December of their senior year. GRAD-001 must be followed.

#### **Can a student graduate with 22 credits if we have additional LEA requirements?**

YES. Beginning in 2024-25, a student who wants to graduate early with only 22 credits may do so, if they follow SBE policy GRAD-001 and GRAD-006, if applicable.

#### **Do we promote a student to the next grade level if they are planning to early graduate?**

NO. The student will stay in the grade level based on their data of entry into high school.

#### **How will testing and accountability be impacted with early graduates?**

Students will participate in end-of-course tests as eligible students who are in membership in the course. Other tests, such as the ACT and WorkKeys, will be administered in the testing window when the student is eligible as defined by grade-level membership. If a student is not in membership during the ACT and WorkKeys testing windows, they will not have an opportunity to participate in the tests. Students who graduate in grade 11 and are never promoted to grade 12 will not be included in the grade 12 ACT and WorkKeys accountability measures. For the cohort graduation rate, students will remain in their established 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort. This will ensure early graduates participate in accountability measures as required by state and federal law.

#### **Can a student re-enroll in high school after they graduate early?**

NO. Once a student graduates, a student has completed their standard high school course of study and cannot re-enroll in high school. See NCGS 115C-1.

*For further questions, please contact [Sneha.ShahColtane@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Sneha.ShahColtane@dpi.nc.gov), Senior Director of Academic Policy and Advanced Learning.*