

Alcorn School District

Any high school student who completes the number of credits and other exiting standards required by both the state and the district prior to completing eight (8) semesters of high school work may petition the superintendent and board of trustees to graduate early.

This board will permit early graduation under unusual and unique circumstances for students who would benefit from early graduation. Early graduates may participate in the regular spring commencement ceremony.

The intent of this provision is to provide an opportunity for the student to improve his/her educational or vocational future by graduating from high school with less than eight semesters of attendance in grades nine through twelve.

1. To be eligible for early graduation in the Alcorn School District, a student must meet the district's graduation requirements.
2. Procedure for application:
 - a. A student and his/her parents may make application to the high school principal for early graduation. The Early Graduation Application form is available through the counseling office.
 - b. The student will schedule a conference with his/her counselor to:
 - (1) review the application procedure and student's records, and determine early graduation is possible.
 - (2) discuss the reason(s) for early graduation in view of the student's educational and/or vocational goals.
 - c. Following this conference, the student's counselor will schedule a meeting with the student, the student's parent/guardian, and the principal to discuss the student's application for early graduation.
 - d. Before a recommendation for approval of early graduation will be made by the principal to the Superintendent, the following items must be submitted to the principal:
 - (1) A formal letter outlining the reason(s) for the early graduation request;
 - (2) A "5-year plan" outlining the student's educational and/or employment goals for the next five years. This plan may be part of the student's formal letter.
 - (3) Documentation that the student has been in contact with a post-secondary institution if the student is planning to continue his/her education immediately upon graduation, or a letter from an employer stating that the student is or will be employed immediately upon graduation.

- (4) A letter from the student's parent/guardian in support of the early graduation request.
 - e. A recommendation from the principal, along with the application, the student's transcript, and the items from 2d above, will be forwarded to the Superintendent
 - f. The board and administration will review the application at a regular board meeting.
 - g. The decision of the superintendent and school board will be sent to the applicant and the principal/counselor.
 - h. If the request for early graduation is approved by the Alcorn School District and all requirements for graduation are completed, the high school principal will issue the standard diploma at the regular spring graduation.
3. Evaluation criteria for recommendation to the superintendent and school board shall include the following:
- a. Social and emotional maturity of the student.
 - b. Student's attitude toward early graduation and post high school plans.
 - c. Evidence of a well-planned post-high school program within the student's ability to achieve.
 - d. Evidence that the high school program has prepared the student for school opportunities. Such preparation includes: academic standing, curricular activities, regularity of attendance, etc.
 - e. Parent/Guardian support.
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