

## EARLY GRADUATION

As a general rule, the school board, administration, faculty, and guidance counselor are not in favor of early graduation, except in cases for students with extenuating circumstances. Students that desire to graduate earlier than the typical four-year program must follow the prescribed procedures below.

1. A student must indicate at spring class registration, prior to their senior year, their intentions and make preliminary arrangements with the guidance counselor. The guidance counselor will work with the student to build their senior schedule.
2. The student must have an extenuating circumstance in order to submit an early graduation request.
  - a. An extenuating circumstance applies to a child's physical health, emotional health, mental health, and safety/well-being. An extenuating circumstance may also apply to spring collegiate enrollment for scholarship opportunities. For consideration of an extenuating circumstance, the Beresford School District will need to know the steps taken by the child or family to address the scenario/situation. Early graduation requests typically pertain to the spring semester of a child's final year.
3. The student must have a 2.0 cumulative grade point average for grades 9-11.
4. The student must not need more than 4 total credits in order to graduate and must be on pace to receive their high school diploma, meeting all requirements for graduation.
5. A telephone or personal conference must be held with the student, his or her parent/guardian, guidance counselor and/or the high school principal regarding the early graduation request.
6. The student and parent/guardian must attach a statement to the early graduation request stating the extenuating circumstances, indicating the reasons for the early graduation request.
7. The early graduation request form must be signed by the student, parent/guardian, guidance counselor, high school principal, and superintendent to grant permission for the early graduation request. The Board of Education has final approval on granting the early graduation request.
8. If advanced plans for early graduation are not submitted by the student prior to their senior year, the student must have their early graduation request submitted no later than

the third day of school if they plan to graduate at semester time.

9. The high school master schedule of classes will not be changed to accommodate early graduation requests.
10. Student schedules will only be changed to meet emergency situations that may arise.
11. Graduation exercises only occur once per year, at the end of the school year (generally on a Saturday in May).

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