

## EARLY GRADUATION

Any student, for whom early graduation is approved, gives up all senior privileges at the time he/she leaves the Bath County Public Schools. Privileges include, but are not limited to, the senior trip, senior prom, etc.

The student may attend the graduation exercises if he/she desires.

### 1. Accelerated Programs

Parents and students should be informed that the main purpose of the accelerated program is to enable capable students to take more advanced work in high school, not to encourage them to try to graduate in three years. All students will plan a four-year program. The criteria for acceleration at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level should be based on general ability and reading level as measured by standardized tests, achievement scores, grades, teacher recommendations, and other pertinent guidance data. Parental permission must be required for all students in accelerated programs.

In line with State Board of Education policy, it may be possible for a student who has met at least one of the foregoing criteria to graduate in three years if that student:

- A. Has been in an accelerated program beginning at the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade level and has completed the requirements for graduation; and provided that one has successfully completed the course work necessary for further education;
- B. Has been accepted, prior to graduation, in a college or other institution of advanced study beyond high school;
- C. Is, in the opinion of teachers, the guidance department and the principal, sufficiently mature and self-reliant to graduate from high school and pursue higher learning;
- D. Has parental permission;
- E. Has approval of the office of the Division Superintendent.

### 2. Early Graduation for Hardship Cases

Absolute hardship cases are those involving a financial necessity (not just a desire) for a student to work during the school day. Even these students are to be encouraged to attend school and work after school hours.

Example – Students who must contribute significantly to the financial support of their family.

If the above condition is fully met, the following procedure must be used before a decision is made:

- A. Students must submit all requests and information in writing with parent's or guardian's approval and signatures.
- B. All requests must be reviewed by the principal and guidance counselor(s). (Also teachers if appropriate)
- C. The principal shall recommend approval or rejection and forward his recommendation, along with appropriate information, to the office of the Division Superintendent.
- D. The central office administration shall issue a decision on the request.
- E. Students whose requests are rejected have the right to appeal to the Bath County School Board.

3. Early College Admittance

Students who begin advanced education prior to high school graduation, after having been accepted by an accredited college or university, may receive credit toward high school graduation when the following conditions are met:

- A. Prior approval of the high school principal has been obtained.
- B. When all high school graduation requirements are met. Student will be encouraged to complete requirements within the first year of college.
- C. The course(s) for which high school credit is/are to be issued corresponds to that needed for high school graduation (i.e., one semester of college English for one credit of English).
- D. The college course(s) for which high school credit is to be granted is part of the student's program leading to college graduation, as evidenced by an official transcript.

4. Behind Regular Graduating Class

Any student who is behind his/her regular graduating class may graduate at any time he/she meets all graduation requirements.

Adopted: November 2, 1998