

345.52 EARLY GRADUATION

Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools accepts a philosophy of education that recognizes the individual differences among students. It is recognized that the more schooling that a pupil receives, the greater their chances for a successful future. We also recognize that students learn and mature at widely differing rates. To this end, Lincoln High School (LHS) desires to maximize, and not minimize, a pupil's educational opportunities. For this reason, LHS will only permit early graduation following completion of the junior year or first two terms of the senior year dependent upon the following factors:

1. The building principal and high school counselor have granted permission following conferences with faculty members who have worked with the student. (Social and emotional factors are to be evaluated in addition to academic achievements.)
2. The parent/guardian and pupil demonstrate a feasible plan designed to satisfactorily fulfill the required courses for the diploma desired.
3. The parent/guardian and pupil presents a plan that outlines their future plans and how early graduation facilitates these plans.

The following procedure for obtaining approval for early graduation must be followed:

1. The pupil must discuss the early graduation possibilities with his/her school counselor.
2. The pupil must write a letter to the principal stating the following:
 - a) Request for early graduation to include the date of graduation.
 - b) Reasons for the request.
3. A parent or guardian must return the early graduation form to the principal stating support and approval of their pupil's early graduation request.
4. The principal and counselor will review the student's letter and parent form.
5. A conference will be held with a parent or guardian, the pupil, the principal, and the school counselor to discuss the request.
6. The principal's favorable recommendation will be based upon the following criteria: maturity, academic ability and progress, etc. Denial of the request will be completed in writing by the principal and a copy provided to the student and his/her parent or guardian.
7. Pupils wishing to graduate in May/June of their junior year are required to initiate this process in writing by October 1 of the junior year. Pupils wishing to graduate after completion of two terms of their senior year are required to initiate this process in writing by the end of the junior year (no later than June 5th). Special circumstances will be evaluated individually.

8. All approvals are made contingent upon required courses and credit requirement fulfillment. Upon credit requirement fulfillment, the student will be removed from the enrollment of Lincoln High School.
9. Commencement exercises will only be held at the end of the academic year. However, a senior graduating after two terms will be permitted to participate in the regular spring commencement activities. A junior year graduate will graduate with current-year seniors and may participate in the graduation ceremony.
10. Class rank for students approved for early graduation will be finalized upon calculation of class rank for the entire graduating class utilizing the early graduate's grades at the time he/she leaves.
11. Pupils who graduate early will not be permitted to take part in any organized school activity except for those open to the general public. While visiting LHS they will be expected to follow all procedures required of other adults in the community. Early graduates may enroll in higher education classes at the university, colleges, or technical schools. All courses, fees, and financial obligations become the responsibility of the early graduate, not the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools.
12. Final approval of an early graduation request is based on the following criteria being met:
 - a) 3.0 grade point average in the three terms of school prior to graduation (extenuating circumstances will be considered);
 - b) all graduation requirements fulfilled;
 - c) no truancy, attendance or discipline issues in the three terms of school prior to graduation; and
 - d) evidence of a documented plan of action. Failing to meet any of these factors will place the application in jeopardy.

CROSS REF: 345.5 – Graduation Requirements

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