

## **Instruction**

### **Graduation Requirements**

To graduate from high school, unless otherwise exempted, each student is responsible for:

1. Completing all District graduation requirements that are in addition to the State requirements.
2. Completing all courses as provided in the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-22.
3. Completing all minimum requirements for graduation as specified by Illinois State Board of Education rule, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.
4. Passing an examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Participating in State assessments that are required for graduation by the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c).
6. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, filing one of the following: (1) a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Dept. of Education, (2) an application for State financial aid, or (3) an Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) waiver form indicating that the student understands what these aid opportunities are and has chosen not to file an application. If the student is not at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student's parent/guardian must file one of these documents on the student's behalf.

A student is exempt from this requirement if: (1) the student is unable to file a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver due to extenuating circumstances, (2) the Building Principal attests the District made a good faith effort to assist the student or the student's parent/guardian with filing a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver form, and (3) the student has met all other graduation requirements.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for:

1. Maintaining a description of all course offerings that comply with the above graduation requirements.
2. Notifying students and their parents/guardians of graduation requirements.
3. Developing the criteria for #4 above.
4. Complying with State law requirements for students who transfer during their senior year because their parent(s)/guardian(s) are on active military duty. This includes making reasonable adjustments to ensure graduation if possible, or efforts to ensure that the original (transferor) school district issues the student a diploma.
5. Taking all other actions needed or necessary to implement this policy.

The graduation requirements below apply to all North Boone High School students.

One (1) credit shall be earned for the successful completion of a course meeting for one (1) class period per school day for one (1) school year.

Students who are deficient in credits for graduation will NOT be allowed to participate in the graduation activities.

Students will be required to complete forty (40) hours of community service (10 hours per year attending North Boone High School) prior to graduation. In extreme circumstances, an individual may request a full or partial waiver of this requirement by the Superintendent.

### **Community Service Requirement**

The intent of this requirement is to encourage students to be active and engaged members of their communities and to address important community issues. Service can unite neighbors, mobilize volunteers and encourage a lifelong ethic of public participation and is best performed in conjunction with a reputable public service organization.

### **Guidelines for Fulfilling Community Service Requirement**

- New students who enroll from out of the district, will be required to meet only the hours suggested for the grade(s) they need to complete. For example, a student entering as a 10th grader will need to complete only the hours suggested for grades 10-12.
- The Community Service Advisors will present guidelines to students and parents at the Freshmen Orientation. All forms are available online and in the high school office. Community service hours are listed on progress reports and report cards, which are sent out quarterly.
- Pre-approval forms must be completed for anything not shown on the pre-approval list. Hours will be denied if a pre-approval form is not signed by one of the community service advisors.
- Verification forms should be turned in when completed and will not be accepted after the end of that school year. For example, as a freshmen, all verification forms must be turned in by the end of the freshmen year. Students will be denied hours if they are turned in late.

### **Guidelines for Determining Eligibility of School-Based Community Service**

Ideally, the act should be selfless: for someone's benefit other than the student's own. And it should not be something the student would be doing regardless of receiving community service hours (like band, sports, theatre, clubs, etc. – on or off campus). It should be in ADDITION.

### **What is not accepted as Community Service**

The new guidelines for what qualifies as community service for the district graduation requirement have become more explicit. They are as follows:

- No pay may be received for service
- No family members may be the recipients or supervisors of service
- No service may be performed during a student's school hours
- No credit may be given for grading papers; or working for an individual teacher
- No credit for service will be recorded without an advisor's or service recipient's signature, both for permission and approval
- No credit for service will be recorded without the student's sponsor's signature of approval
- It is highly recommended that service be in conjunction with a reputable public service organization.
- No credit will be given for work with a profit-making organization unless organization is doing something non-profit.
- No credit will be given for co-curricular activities, i.e., managing sports teams, grading papers, working in the concession stands for high school sports or activities, etc.
- What would usually be considered normal extracurricular (or co-curricular) activities, such as sports and sports-related activities, cheerleading, participating in school performance activities that are related to a class, etc.
- Related to a class, credit for a class, or the making of profit, defraying costs of trips, etc.
- Grades cannot be given for service; neither lowered, raised, nor as extra credit
- Credit for service will not be given for court-required or other punitive service

- Service for academic credit. Community service for which students receive academic credit is NOT applied toward the 40-hour requirement. This includes activities performed through independent studies and the community service course.
- Activities such as babysitting, tutoring, or yard and housework to help a friend or neighbor typically do NOT count toward the requirements.

### **What is accepted as Community Service**

- Peer tutoring after school hours or on weekends
- Assisting/facilitating at school functions 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation, open house, honors night, etc.
- Two hours of community service credit for giving blood during a school-sponsored blood drive (this is an exception to the rule that community service activities cannot be performed during school hours)
- Assisting at Boys or Girls Clubs
- Working with the Habitat for Humanity
- Tutoring after school at an elementary school
- Helping remove graffiti—off campus
- Helping at a hospital, convalescent home, or orphanage
- Working with community theater
- Helping with a community team such as AYSO soccer
- Helping at a non-profit organization such as Little League (helping with youth sporting events, St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, children, refereeing, etc.)
- Giving blood (2 hours of credit each time)
- Helping the community through church-related activities, educational activities and non-religious activities which benefit the religious community (in non-financial ways) or the community at large ARE applicable.
- Coaching, managing or refereeing youth sports up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Examples of applicable religious-sponsored service activities include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Teaching Sunday school or CCD
- Baby-sitting during religious services
- Painting church or synagogue buildings and classrooms
- Clothing drives
- Work in shelters
- Participation in church mission trips

**Charity Walks.** Each charity walk is assigned a specific number of service hours for completing the walk, provided the student solicits pledges. Walking in solidarity without raising money for the cause will not earn hours. In addition, extra hours may be earned by fund-raising; for every 10 pledges or \$100 (whichever works more to the student's benefit) raised, a student earns an extra half-hour of service. Copies of the pledge sheets will serve as verification.

### Early Graduation

Students may graduate prior to the completion of grade twelve if the course work required for graduation under this policy has been fulfilled. In such cases, the student must have the approval of the Superintendent and the Principal.

Students who graduate early have the right to participate in graduation activities and attend the prom.

Students who graduate early are considered to be “not currently enrolled” students and therefore will not be allowed to participate in the senior class trip.

Students planning to graduate at mid-term should notify the guidance counselor by the end of the first quarter to facilitate planning.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures for students to graduate early, provided they finish seven semesters of high school and meet all graduation requirements.

#### Certificate of Completion

A student with a disability who has an Individualized Education Program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's four years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed four years of high school. The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her high school graduation class. The Superintendent or designee shall provide timely written notice of this requirement to children with disabilities and their parents/guardians.

#### Service Member Diploma

The District will award a diploma to a service member who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the U.S. Armed Forces or an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict, provided that he or she (1) resided within an area currently within the District at the time he or she left high school, (2) left high school before graduating in order to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, and (3) has not received a high school diploma.

#### Semester Test Exemption

Seniors who meet or exceeded state standards on the SAT exam taken during their junior year will be exempt from taking final exams at the end of the first semester.

Seniors will not be required to take final exams for second semester.

Students will have the option to take the exams either semester if they feel taking an exam will improve their grade. If an exam is taken, then the regular grading procedures will apply. If a final exam is not taken, the quarter grades will each count 50% toward the semester grade in that class.

#### Dual Credit

Courses taken through a college program (Rock Valley College, Beloit College Porter Scholars, etc.) with the approval of the Principal may be substituted for some high school courses, i.e., dual credit courses. The students requesting dual credit courses may have the class grade count toward his/her overall cumulative grade point average, assuming it does not place the student above a student who took an honors schedule course load at North Boone High School.

Credits earned in the subject areas of English, Mathematics, Physical and Life Sciences, Foreign Language and Social and Behavioral Sciences may be weighted the same as an honors/advanced placement level North Boone course, with the prior approval of the Principal. College level courses that are at least 100 level are the only classes that will be considered for this option.

#### Graduation Requirements for the Graduation Class of 2010 and Later

A. A total of twenty-four (24) credits are required for graduation.

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|-------------|---|
| 4.0 Credits | Language Arts/English - 1 Credit in each: English 9, English 10, and English 11 with a 4th credit optional within the English Department's offerings.<br>Two years of writing intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other graduation requirements. |
| 3.0 Credits | Mathematics – 1 credit in Algebra I and one must include geometry content. If the student passes Algebra I in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade, it will not need to be repeated in High School.  |

3.0 Credits	Science - 1 credit in Biology
2.5 Credits	Social Studies - 1 credit must be in History of the United States, 1/2 credit in American Government, and 1/2 credit in World Geography (Beginning with the Class of 2007 and thereafter, Required - 1 credit must be in History of U.S., ½ credit in American Government and 1 credit in World Cultures)
1.0 Credits	Humanities or Vocational Education - Includes: Band, Choir, Art, Foreign Language, Home Economics, Industrial Technology, Business, Agriculture
0.5 Credit	Consumer Education
0.5 Credit	Health
<del>0.5 Credit</del>	<del>Driver Education (If Driver Education is not completed in school, another elective is necessary)</del>
<del>3.5 Credit</del>	<del>Physical Education (Health will substitute for 1 semester of P.E.) Exceptions to this are in Board policy 6:310, "Physical Education". Students graduating early may have this requirement waived.</del>
0.5 Credit	Computer Education
<u>5.0 9 Credit</u>	Electives*

24.0 Credits

\*A student must be enrolled in at least two semesters of Physical Education, Health, Driver Education, or Marching Band for each year enrolled in Grades 9-12.

B. Requirements for Honors Diploma Program -- Total twenty-six (26) credits; (at least two (2) AP courses or Honors courses with a grade of "C" or higher) and a 3.5 GPA or higher are required to graduate with an Honors Diploma. In addition to the above listed 24 credits, the following credits are needed:

3.0 Credits - Math (Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II are required. If the student passes Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, it will not need to be repeated in High School.)

3.0 Credits - Science (Biology and Chemistry required)

3.0 Credits - Social Studies

2.0 Credits - Foreign Language

C. Requirements for an Alternative High School diploma. This diploma will not be issued to students enrolled at North Boone High School. This is for alternatively placed students.

3.0 Credits English

3.0 Credits Mathematics

3.0 Credits Science

3.0 Credits Social Studies – Broken down as follows:

- .5 credit for Government, including the state/federal constitution tests
- 1 credit for United States History
- 1.5 credits for any other social studies classes

0.5 Credit Consumer Education

0.5 Credit Health

2.0 Credit Physical Education

5.0 Credit Work Study plus Electives

20.0 Credits

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/22-27, 5/27-3, 5/27-22, and 5/27-22.10.  
105 ILCS 70/, Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act.  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:310 (High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students), 6:315 (High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

ADOPTED: January 16, 1990

AMENDED: April 20, 2020