

Questions to Consider

All students are unique. As you think about Early Graduation, there are many factors that could affect the decision.

- Is your child emotionally mature enough to work independently?
- Is your child socially mature/immature? Would he/she mind being in classes with students who are older?
- Does your child have a plan for the future?
- Does your child want to stay in high school to complete four years of activities, sports or competitions?
- Would your child benefit from taking advanced level, AP, or dual credit courses—gaining college credit while remaining in the high school environment?
- Are you financially ready to send a student to college as a sophomore or junior?
- Are there scholarships, academic opportunities, or events in the high school that your child would benefit from by staying four years?
- Does your child have an interest and the ability to successfully complete early graduation?

- Has your child met the benchmarks on state and school assessments?
- Does Early Graduation adequately prepare your child for his/her academic plan?
- Will your child be willing to forego traditional senior activities and local scholarships (i.e. prom, banquets, trips, recognitions, award ceremonies, Governor’s Scholar, etc.)?
- Will your child be willing to forego participation in athletic activities? Will your child’s college/university allow your child to participate in athletic activities if he/she is an early graduate?
- Will your child be eligible for scholarships?
- Will your child be attending college in another state? (The monies may only be used in KY.)

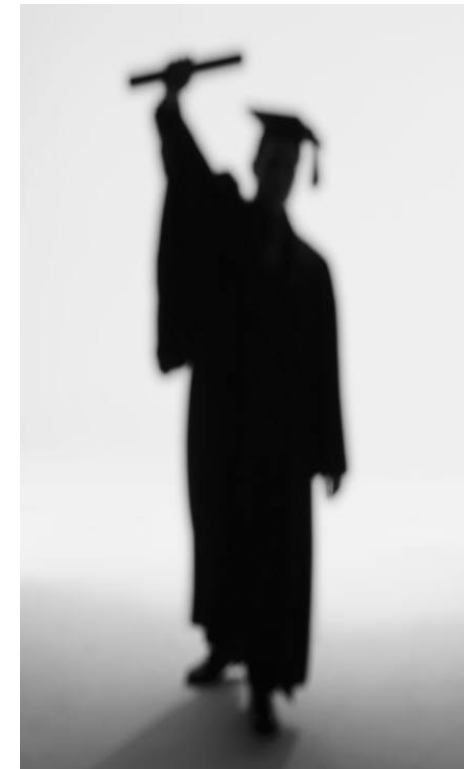
MEADE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Early Graduation Option



What Is Early Graduation?

Starting in the 2014-15 school year, certain students may opt for early graduation from high school. These are students who have shown high achievement, accelerated levels of academic success and express a desire to complete high school early and move on to college. An early graduation candidate is a student who intends to meet all regulatory benchmarks on an accelerated pathway before the end of his/her third full year of enrollment. The criteria for early graduation requires a student to declare his/her intention to graduate early, complete an intent form, meet college readiness benchmarks as determined by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, and meet minimum benchmarks on the four state required end-of-course exams.

Early graduation is a deliberate pathway for students to receive a diploma from the district and be eligible for acceptance into a SACS-accredited Kentucky public or non-profit, two- or four-year college.

Meeting early graduation does not ensure acceptance to a two- or four-year college. Students, along with families, need to have preliminary discussions with institutions of their choice to determine all requirements for acceptance before considering early graduation. If your child graduates high school in three years or less, he/she will not be allowed to return to high school. He/She is expected to enroll in a college/university.

What Are the Academic Requirements for Early Graduation?

To meet the criteria, students who intend to graduate early must meet minimum proficiency benchmarks for the four End of Course exams required for state accountability. Currently the benchmarks for these classes are Biology-154, Algebra II-148, English II-154, and US History-147. In addition, students must meet college readiness benchmarks. The current benchmarks for the ACT are English = 18, Reading = 20, and Math = 19.



Who Decides If a Student Is Eligible to Participate?

An Early Graduation Committee will be established for your child at the high school or middle school. The committee will determine participation in the program. The student and his parents/guardians will be a part of this committee. There will be periodic meetings to discuss the child's progress, grades, and plan each school year. Participation is necessary in order to meet your child's needs. Students and their families should have preliminary discussion with college preadmissions counselors before should occur before meeting with counselors at the high school.

How Does a Student Apply for Early Graduation?

It is highly recommended that the student complete this intent before entering 9th grade. This allows the committee time to make decisions that are unique for that individual child and allows the family to have preliminary discussions with the college/university that their child wants to attend. Any student in 8th –11th grade who is interested in this pathway may pick up a letter of intent application from his counselor. The intent letter should be returned to the counselor by April 1 of the year prior to the student's entry in this program.

Any incoming 11th grader will have the option of entering this program if all requirements have been met and the letter of intent has been completed as well as electronically filed in the school's database by October 1.

