

Morgan County Early Graduation Process

Introduction

The Early Graduation statute and regulation are a result of Senate Bill 61 (2013) and are a companion regulation to Senate Bill 97 (2013). To summarize the regulation; beginning in 2014-2015, Early Graduation will be possible for students who intend to move on an accelerated timeline through high school and graduate college ready in three academic years or less. Early Graduation is a deliberate pathway for students that wish to complete high school early, receive a diploma from the district and be eligible for acceptance into a two-or four- year Kentucky SACS accredited, public or non-profit institution without remediation. The regulation provides a financial incentive, known as the Early Graduation Certificate, for the student to support this action.

Requirements

- Early Graduation Candidates must meet the proficiency benchmarks on Kentucky required end-of-course exams. Currently those classes are ENGLISH II, ALGEBRA II, BIOLOGY, US HISTORY.
- Early Graduation Candidates must meet Council of Post-Secondary Education (CPE) defined college readiness benchmarks on a college readiness exam. Current benchmarks for the ACT (English = 18, Reading = 20, Mathematics = 19) as set by CPE in 13 KAR 2:020.

Incentives

A student who meets the Early Graduation requirements in 704 KAR 3:305 shall earn an Early Graduation Certificate and be eligible for a one-time scholarship award to be used at a SACS accredited Kentucky college or university the academic year immediately following early high school graduation.

- The award shall be equal to one-half (1/2) of the state portion of the average statewide per pupil guarantee for one year. This award amount is determined in the biennial budget for each fiscal year. For the academic year 2013-2014, the statewide per pupil guarantee was \$3827 (half of that would be approximately \$1913).
- The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) will administer the scholarship; funds will be forwarded directly to the institute of higher education.
- Early Graduation Certificate funds shall be available only during the academic year following graduation.

Communicating the Initiatives and Criteria

Middle and High School Counselors will distribute the district letter explaining the criteria, guidelines, requirements, and benefits of the Early Graduation Option.

The district informational letter and letter of intent will be posted to the school and district website.

School one-calls will be made to prepare parents for the receipt of the district informational letter.

Parents will be informed during Open House and other parent meetings.

Announcements will be made through local media including radio and newspapers.

All communications will take place by August 1st.

Criteria for Successful Entrance

All candidates will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Early Graduation Committee. However, the criteria below are indicators of successful completion of the program.

GPA – Student has demonstrated high academic potential in rigorous courses.

Attendance – 95% average attendance rate

Leadership – Letter of recommendation from a club sponsor or community member

Discipline – students should not have excessive behavior issues. This indicator will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Benchmarks – Meets state benchmarks on state level assessments

PLAN: Reading, Math, English

EXPLORE: Reading, Math, English

Student Disposition:

- 1. The decision to commit to graduating early is based on thoughtful conversations with families, school counselors and students, reviewing all the issues which surround accelerating high school graduation.*
- 2. Students intend to begin and stay on this pathway, beginning in middle school or ninth grade.*
- 3. Students have a clear academic or career goal in mind and therefore a reason to demonstrate proficiency in high school and move on.*
- 4. Student is persistent, self-motivated and can set and achieve goals independently.*
- 5. Student is emotionally and academically mature, can deal with their schedule and classes being "out of step" with same age peers.*
- 6. Student shows indications of being on or surpassing benchmarks for College and Career Readiness goals through standardized test scores. High grades alone do not determine a successful early graduate.*
- 7. Student may be identified as Gifted/Talented; this is also not a sole indicator of readiness.*
- 8. Students have a desire to succeed and "move on when ready."*
- 9. Students do not have excessive absences, tardiness or truancies.*
- 10. Students do not have excessive behavior issues. This is a pathway for those students who want to accomplish a goal. Students who cannot reliably accomplish the class and homework without prodding or support are not good candidates for Early Graduation.*

Blueprint for Intervention	
<p>9. Students who are at risk of not meeting the program criteria will be provided additional counseling from school counselors.</p> <p>10. Students needing additional academic support will be placed in College and Career Readiness Interventions that are appropriate in meeting individual needs. (Notes will be entered in to the ILP)</p> <p>11. Parents will be notified as concerns are identified.</p>	
ACT	
<p>12. The Building Assessment Coordinator will ensure that Early Graduate Candidates have the opportunity to take the ACT.</p>	
Transition Plan for Early Graduates /Students Exiting the Program Before Graduating	
<p>13. Early Graduation Committee meeting will be scheduled for those students who are not meeting the program criteria or who decide to discontinue participation in the Early Graduation Pathway.</p> <p>14. The Early Graduation Committee will review transcripts and determine a pathway to meet high school requirements.</p> <p>15. The Early Graduation Committee will seek to place the student in an appropriate pathway that will ensure readiness for college and/or a career.</p>	
Graduation Ceremony Options	
<p>16. Early Graduation students will participate in the graduation ceremony during the year program requirements are complete.</p>	
Diploma Options	
<p>17. Students will receive a general diploma from the Morgan County School System.</p>	

- The *Letter of Intent* is not binding; students may revert to regular student enrollment with the knowledge they have to meet the District’s minimum requirements and that they will not be eligible for the Early Graduation Certificate.

Incentives:

- 1) A student who meets the Early Graduation requirements in 704 KAR 3:305 shall earn an Early Graduation Certificate to be eligible for a one time scholarship award to be used at a Kentucky two- or four-year public or independent non-profit SAC’s accredited college or university the year immediately following high school graduation. The award shall be equal to one-half (1/2) of the SEEK statewide per pupil guarantee for one year.
- 2) Students who graduate from high school in three years shall also receive a Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) award equivalent to completing high school in four years.

Letter of Intent to Apply for Early Graduation

Intended Graduation Year _____

Student name	
SSID#	
Date of Birth	
Parent/Guardian name	
Permanent Mailing Address	
City, State, Zip code	
Parent phone number	
Parent email address	

High School Name:	District:
Principal:	Mailing Address:

Date student entered high school (MM/DD/YEAR)

Date student intends to graduate (MM/DD/YEAR)

The student status as an Early Graduate is to be entered into Infinite Campus no later than October 1st of the academic year in which the student makes the declaration, as stated in Section 9 of 704 KAR 3:305. The Signed and completed Intent form is to be uploaded into the student ILP

Date entered into IC _____ Into ILP _____

By (print name and sign)

If this student transfers to another Kentucky high school before completing Early Graduation, the Early Graduation Intent and information must be moved in Infinite Campus and a counselor must be assigned to monitor the student's progress.

Date moved _____

School, District _____

Date entered into IC _____

By (print name and sign) _____

- A copy of this Intent form should be placed in the Student's Cumulative folder and a copy given to the student for their records.

Appendix C:

Sample Pathways for Students for Early Graduation—2 Year Program

Honors or Regular Classes

9th Grade

FALL Semester (1)	SPRING Semester (2)
English I	English I
Algebra I or Algebra II	Algebra I or Algebra II
Biology or Pre-AP Biology	Biology or Pre-AP Biology
Intro to SS or World Civ	Intro to SS or World Civ
*Elective	*Elective
*Elective	*Elective
*Elective	*Elective

10th Grade

FALL Semester (1)	SPRING Semester (2)
English II or Pre-AP English II	English II or Pre-AP English II
Algebra II or Geometry	Algebra II or Geometry
US History or Pre-AP US History	US History or Pre-AP US History
*Elective	*Elective
*Elective	*Elective
*Elective	*Elective
*Elective	*Elective

ASSESSMENTS

9 th Grade			10 th Grade		
Algebra II EOC (if applicable)			PLAN & ACT		
Biology EOC			English 2 EOC		
AP Exams (Students who take AP classes)			Algebra 2 EOC (if applicable)		
			US History EOC		
			On-Demand Writing		
			AP Exams (Students who take AP classes)		
			KOSSA (Career Pathway-depends on electives taken)		
College Course	ACT Subject Test Area	ACT EXPLORE Benchmark Grade 8	ACT EXPLORE Benchmark Grade 9	ACT PLAN Benchmark Grade 10	ACT Benchmark
English Composition	English	13	14	15	18
College Algebra	Math	17	18	19	22 (19)
Social Sciences	Reading	16	17	18	22 (20)
Biology	Science	18	19	20	23

Course Selection for either 2-Year or 3-Year Program:

***Elective Classes—students may either select a career pathway offered at Morgan County High School. They can also choose to take extra core or elective classes in the areas of Math, English, Social Studies or Science. They can take classes in Art, Band, or Foreign Language.**

***Any higher level course may be substituted for a lower level course unless it is a required course for state assessment.**

***A student must maintain a full day schedule for each year they are enrolled at Morgan County High School.**

***Early-College/Dual-Credit – classes may be taken at the 11th grade if all academic benchmarks and requirements for the program are met.**