

1. PART-TIME ATTENDANCE

Students may choose to earn a minimum number of high school credits and attend high school on a part-time basis during their senior year.

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- ✓ The student must meet all state and local credit, testing, and student service requirements for graduation.
- ✓ The student and parent/guardian must submit an application to the principal, which includes letters of explanation concerning the student's plans for the time during the school day when he or she will not be in school.
- ✓ If the student chooses post-secondary education, college credits are not used for high school transfer credit.

2. WAIVER OF THE SECOND SEMESTER

Students may choose to fulfill all graduation requirements by the end of the first semester of their senior year and waive the second semester.

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- ✓ The student must meet all state and local credit, testing, and student service requirements for graduation.

- ✓ The student and parent/guardian must submit an application to the principal, which includes letters of explanation concerning the student's plans for the time during the school day when he or she will not be in school.
- ✓ The student will be given a final GPA and Class Rank in January and will not be included in the final Class Rank in June.

3. EARLY COLLEGE ACCESS

Early College Access allows students to be dually enrolled and attend high school and college concurrently. Seniors may enroll in college credit courses and may be able to use these courses for high school graduation requirements. **Each three-credit college course is equivalent to one-half high school credit.** All courses intended to meet specific graduation requirements must receive prior approval from the Office of Secondary Education and the appropriate content Supervisor.

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- ✓ The student must meet all state and local credit, testing, and student service requirements for graduation.
- ✓ The student and parent/guardian must submit an application including the college courses to be taken.
- ✓ Students must complete enrollment procedures as determined by the

college. This may include an academic skills assessment and/or other prerequisite requirements. Remedial college courses cannot be submitted for high school graduation requirements.

- ✓ Students are responsible for providing their high school with final post-secondary transcripts prior to graduation.

4. EARLY ADMISSION TO A POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM

Students who are accepted to an accredited college or an approved vocational or technical postsecondary program at the end of Grade 11 may waive their senior year and still receive their high school diploma. Courses which meet specific graduation requirements must be approved by the Office of Secondary Education.

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- ✓ The student must meet all state and local credit, testing, and student service requirements for graduation.
- ✓ The student and parent/guardian must submit an application explaining the student's reasons for requesting the waiver, and provide the principal with a letter of admission to the postsecondary program.
- ✓ Students receive their high school diploma upon successful completion of

non-remedial college credits which fulfill high school graduation requirements or their equivalent, from an approved postsecondary program.

- ✓ As a result of this process, students are officially withdrawn from their high school. It is the student's responsibility to maintain contact with the school concerning graduation information.
- ✓ Students are responsible for providing their high school with final post-secondary transcripts prior to graduation.

5. EARLY GRADUATION

Students may receive a high school diploma at the end of Grade 11 through Early Graduation.

The decision to participate in this graduation option must be made by the end of grade 10.

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- ✓ The student must meet all state and local credit, testing, and student service learning requirements for graduation by the end of Grade 11.
- ✓ The student and parent/guardian must submit an application to the principal explaining the student's reasons for requesting Early Graduation, before the end of grade 10.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Students shall satisfactorily complete four years of approved study beyond Grade 8 to receive a Maryland High School Diploma. In recognition that 4-year enrollment in a public high school may not serve the best interests of all students, alternatives may be available.

Harford County Public Schools offer students several enrollment options for earning a high school diploma. These options include: Part-time Attendance, Waiver of the Second Semester, Early College Access, Early Admission to a Postsecondary Program, and Early Graduation. These options should be identified and the application process completed during spring course registration.

1. **Part-time Attendance** is an option for seniors who attend high school for a minimum number of credits.
2. **Waiver of the Second Semester** is for students who complete all graduation requirements at the conclusion of the first semester of the senior year.
3. **Early College Access** is for seniors who attend both high school and a postsecondary institution, and plan to apply those credits toward their high school graduation requirements.
4. **Early Admission to a Postsecondary Program** is for students who opt to complete high school graduation requirements from an approved postsecondary program, in lieu of attending the fourth year of high school.
5. **Early Graduation** is for students who wish to complete their high school requirements within three years.

ARE THESE OPTIONS... RIGHT FOR ME?

All students who choose to waive the 4 years after Grade 8 high school attendance requirement will have an appropriate descriptive entry made to their permanent record card

Students who choose post-secondary education should be academically and socially ready for the rigors of college.

Students may be eligible for financial aid or scholarships prior to receiving their high school diploma, and should contact the post-secondary institution to determine availability.

Students may not be eligible to participate in high school extra-curricular activities or senior class activities.

Parents should contact their financial advisor, tax consultant, or insurance representative to see if reduced student attendance affects family benefits.

Students who choose to work may have to provide proof of continued employment.

Students who choose to attend a postsecondary institution will have to provide proof of enrollment and attendance.

Students should contact the postsecondary institution of their choice for specific enrollment guidelines.

Students may graduate with their class at the end of the senior year provided they have completed the appropriate credit requirements.

For more information on senior enrollment options:

- ✓ Visit your high school counselor or School Counseling Office for specific procedures and deadlines.
- ✓ Contact the postsecondary institution of your choice regarding enrollment options and financial aid opportunities.



WHAT ARE MY CHOICES FOR SENIOR YEAR?

A GUIDE TO ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Note: The Cooperative Work Experience Program is another alternative available to students. See your high school counselor or Cooperative Work Experience Coordinator for more information.

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Revised July 18, 2007
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