Students

School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools

Age

To be eligible for admission, a child must be 5 years old on or before September 1 of that school term. A child entering first grade must be 6 years old on or before September 1 of that school term. Based upon an assessment of the child’s readiness, a child will be allowed to attend first grade if he or she attended a non-public preschool, continued his or her education at that school through kindergarten, was taught in kindergarten by an appropriately certified teacher, and will be 6 years old on or before December 31. A child with exceptional needs who qualifies for special education services is eligible for admission at 3 years of age.

Admission Procedure

All students must register for school each year on the dates and at the place designated by the Superintendent. Parents/guardians of students enrolling in the District for the first time must present:

1. A certified copy of the student’s birth certificate. If a birth certificate is not presented, the Superintendent or designee shall notify in writing the person enrolling the student that within 30 days he or she must provide a certified copy of the student’s birth certificate. A student will be enrolled without a birth certificate. When a certified copy of the birth certificate is presented, the school shall promptly make a copy for its records, place the copy in the student’s temporary record, and return the original to the person enrolling the child. If a person enrolling a student fails to provide a certified copy of the student’s birth certificate, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency, and shall also notify the person enrolling the student in writing that, unless he or she complies within 10 days, the case will be referred to the local law enforcement authority for investigation. If compliance is not obtained within that 10-day period, the Superintendent or designee shall so refer the case. The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report to the local law enforcement authority any material received pursuant to this paragraph that appears inaccurate or suspicious in form or content.

2. Proof of residence, as required by Board Policy 7.60, Residence.

3. Proof of disease immunization or detection and the required physical examination, as required by State law and Board Policy 7.100, Health and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students.

The individual enrolling a student shall be given the opportunity to voluntarily state whether the student has a parent or guardian who is a member of a branch of the U. S. Armed Forces and who
is either deployed to active duty or expects to be deployed to active duty during the school year. Students who are children of active duty military personnel transferring will be allowed to enter: (a) the same grade level in which they studied at the school from which they transferred, if the transfer occurs during the District’s school year, or (b) the grade level following the last grade completed.

**Homeless Children**

Any homeless child shall be immediately admitted, even if the child or child’s parent/guardian is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. Board Policy 6.140, *Education of Homeless Children*, and its implementing administrative procedure govern the enrollment of homeless children.

**Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools**

A student may transfer into or out of the District according to State law and procedures developed by the Superintendent. A student seeking to transfer into the District must serve the entire term of any suspension or expulsion, imposed for any reason by any public or private school, in this or any other state, before being admitted into the School District. However, in no case shall the student serve an expulsion or suspension in excess of the time permitted by statute (i.e. two calendar years).

**Foreign Students**

The District accepts foreign exchange students with a J-1 visa and who reside within the District as participants in an exchange program sponsored by organizations screened by administration. Exchange students on a J-1 visa are not required to pay tuition.

Privately sponsored exchange students on an F-1 visa may be enrolled if an adult resident of the District has temporary guardianship and the student lives in the home of that guardian. Exchange students on an F-1 visa are required to pay tuition at the established District rate. F-1 visa student admission is limited to high schools and attendance may not exceed 12 months.

The Board may limit the number of exchange students admitted in any given year. Exchange students must comply with District immunization requirements. Once admitted, exchange students become subject to all District policies and regulations governing students.

**Re-enrollment**

Re-enrollment shall be denied to any individual 19 years of age or above who has dropped out of school and who could not earn sufficient credits during the normal school year(s) to graduate before his or her 21st birthday. However, at the Superintendent’s or designee’s discretion and depending on program availability, the individual may be enrolled in a graduation incentives program established under 105 ILCS 5/26-16 or an alternative learning opportunities program established under 105 ILCS 5/13B-1. (See 6:110, Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program). Before being denied re-enrollment, the District will offer the individual due process as required in cases of expulsion under Policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*. A person denied re-enrollment will be provided counseling and be directed to alternative educational programs, including adult education
programs that lead to graduation or receipt of a GED diploma. This section does not apply to students eligible for special education under the Individuals With Disabilities Educational Improvement Act or accommodation plans under the Rehabilitation Act, Section 504.

Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.
Rehabilitation Act, Section 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794
105 ILCS 5/2-3.13a, 5/10-20.12, 5/10-22.5a, 5/14-1.02, 5/14-1.03a, 5/26-1, 5/26-2, 5/22-65.
5/27-8.1, and 10/8.1. 45/1 et. seq., and 70/1 et. seq.
325 ILCS 50/1 et. seq. and 55/1 et. seq.
410 ILCS 315/2e.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §375 Student Records

CROSS REF.: 6.30, 6.110, 6.140, 6.300, 6.310, 7.60, 7.70, 7.100, 7.340

Adopted: October 28, 1997

Revised: March 8, 2005
April 14, 2009
August 14, 2012
October 28, 2014
March 24, 2015
Instruction

High School Credit for Proficiency

Proficiency Credits

Subject to the limitations in this policy and State law, the Superintendent or designee is authorized to establish and approve a program for granting credit for proficiency with the goal of allowing a student who would not benefit from a course because the student is proficient in the subject area to receive credit without having to take the course. A student who demonstrates competency under this program will receive course credit for the applicable course and be excused from any requirement to take the course as a graduation prerequisite. No letter grade will be given for purposes of the student’s cumulative grade point average. The Superintendent or designee shall notify students of the availability of and requirements for receiving proficiency credit. Proficiency credit will be offered in the following subject areas:

Foreign language - A student is eligible to receive one year of foreign language credit if the student has graduated from an accredited elementary school and can demonstrate proficiency, according to this District’s academic criteria, in a language other than English. A student who demonstrates proficiency in American Sign Language is deemed proficient in a foreign language and will receive one year of foreign language credit. A student who studied a foreign language in an approved ethnic school program is eligible to receive appropriate credit according to the level of proficiency reached; the student may be required to take a proficiency examination.

Other proficiency testing - The program for granting credit for proficiency, including the amount of proficiency credit may allow, as the Superintendent or designee deems appropriate, course credit to be awarded on the basis of a local examination to a student who has achieved the necessary proficiency through independent study or work taken in or through another institution. Proficiency testing may also be used to determine eligible credit for other subjects whenever students enter from non-graded schools, non-recognized or non-accredited schools, or were in a home-schooling program.

Course Credit for High School Diploma

The Superintendent or designee may investigate, coordinate, and implement a program and schedules for students in grades 7 and 8 to enroll in a course required for a high school diploma. If a program is available, students in grades 7 and 8 may enroll in a course required for a high school diploma when the course is offered by the high school that the elementary student would attend and either of the following is satisfied: (1) the student participates in the course at the high school and the middle school student’s enrollment in the course would not prevent a high school student from being able to enroll, or, (2) the student participates in the course where the student attends school as long as the course is taught by a teacher who holds a professional educator license with an endorsement for the grade level and content area of the course. A student who successfully completes a course required for a high school diploma while in grades 7 and 8 shall receive academic credit for the course. That academic credit shall satisfy the requirements of Section 27-22 of The School Code for purposes of receiving a high school diploma, unless
evidence about the course’s rigor and content show that the course did not address the relevant Illinois learning standard at the level appropriate for the high school grade during which the course is usually taken. The student’s grade in the course shall also be included in the student’s grade point average.


CROSS REF.: 6.180, 6.280; 6.300, 6.310, 7.40

Adopted: July 8, 1997

Revised: September 23, 2008
April 27, 2010
March 22, 2016
Instruction

Graduation Requirements

The School Board determines high school graduation requirements that will provide each student ample opportunity to achieve the purpose for which the School District exists and that meet the minimum graduation requirements contained in State law.

To graduate from high school, 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, unless the student is exempt.

Unless otherwise exempted, each student must successfully accomplish the following classes to graduate from high school:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>High School Diploma</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 years (8 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3 years (6 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 year US History (2 credits)</td>
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<td>1 semester Am. Gov't. (1 credit)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 semester Economics (1 credit)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 year add'l. course (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3 years of Mathematics (6 credits), including one year of Algebra (2 credits), one year of Geometry (2 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 years (6 credits) of Science including 1 year of Physical Science (e.g., Chemistry) and 1 year of Life Science (e.g., Biology)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Physical Education** | 3.5 years (7 credits)  
(Can get exemptions.) |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1 semester (1 credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art, Music, Foreign</td>
<td>1 year (2 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language (including</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Sign Language), or Vocational Education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AP Class**</td>
<td>None required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Electives to bring total to 48*** credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>48 credits****</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Per Illinois School Code, if student graduates earlier, the number of required physical education credit hours is reduced according to number of semesters enrolled.

***Students who enroll in AP classes are required to take the AP exam.

**** Students who entered a Rockford Public High School prior to the 2012/2013 school year are required to complete a total of 40 credit hours to graduate.

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 parent(s)/guardian(s) of graduation requirements.
3. Developing the criteria for the examination on patriotism, etc (as described in #4 above) as well as a method for recording that fact in the student’s school record.
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 to implement this policy.

Early Graduation

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures for students to graduate early, provided they finish 7 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 4 years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student
has completed 4 years of high school (and as more fully described in the Administrative Regulation). 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 parent(s)/guardian(s).

Veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict

Upon application, an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict will be awarded a diploma, 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 or General Educational Development (GED) diploma.


CROSS REF.: 6.30, 6.320, 7.50

Adopted: July 8, 1997

Revised: August 12, 1997
April 12, 2005
February 28, 2006
June 14, 2011
December 20, 2011
March 24, 2015