

Guidelines for Waiver of Senior Year of High School Alternatives to 4-Year Enrollment in High School

In recognition of the fact that four-year enrollment in high school may not serve the best interests of some students, the following alternatives are made available;

1. **Early College Admission Program.** A student may receive a Maryland High School Diploma after completion of Grade 11 through acceptance in the early college admission program, **provided that:**
 - a. The student is accepted for early admission to an accredited college before high school graduation;
 - b. All State competency prerequisite and student service requirements have been met;
 - c. A written request by the student and parent or guardian is made **to the principal by June 1 preceding the student's senior year** and approved by the superintendent of schools, asking for a waiver of the fourth year enrollment and certifying the early admission acceptance;
 - d. The student's program for the first year of college is approved by the superintendent of schools if this program is included toward the issuance of a high school diploma; and
 - e. At the conclusion of a full year of study, a written request for the high school diploma is submitted to the superintendent together with a transcript or letter from the college to the high school principal indicating that the student has successfully completed a year of college work.
2. **Early Admission to Approved Vocational, Technical, or Other Post-High School.** A student may receive a Maryland High School Diploma after completion of Grade 11 through acceptance in an early admission program of an approved vocational, technical, or post-high school **provided that:**
 - a. The student is accepted for early admission to an approved vocational, technical or other post-high school before high school graduation requirements have been met;
 - b. All state competency prerequisite and student service requirements have been met;
 - c. A written request by the student and parent or guardian is made **to the principal by June 1** and approved by the superintendent of schools, asking for the waiver of the fourth year enrollment requirement and certifying the early admission acceptance;
 - d. The student's program for the first year of post-high school study is approved by the superintendent of schools if this program is included toward the issuance of a high school diploma; and
 - e. At the conclusion of a full year of study, a written request for the high school diploma is submitted to the superintendent together with a transcript or letter from the college to the high school principal indicating that the student has successfully completed a year of college work.

Students approved for waiver of the senior year may participate in high school graduation ceremonies if:

1. The requirements of 1.d. and e. or 2.d. and e. have been met. And
2. A written request to participate is presented to the school principal at least three weeks before graduation.
And
3. The student attends all graduation practice sessions.

Students approved for waiver of the senior year will not be eligible for senior awards, or selection as valedictorian or salutatorian.

Career Pathways

1. **Advanced College-Prep (4+4)** - Students who wish to pursue a career requiring a four year college degree will enroll in at least two years of the same foreign language and other courses which will prepare them to be successful in post-secondary classes.
2. **College/Tech Prep (4+4)** - Students who wish to pursue a career in technical vocational areas requiring a four-year college degree will enroll in courses in high school which will prepare them to be successful in post-secondary classes.
3. **Advanced Tech Prep (4+2)** - Students choosing a career in technical vocational areas requiring a two-year degree from a community college or technical school will enroll in courses in high school which will prepare them to be successful in post-secondary classes.
4. **Occupational Prep** - Job entry/apprenticeship - students who enroll in courses that will meet state approved career technology program standards may join the work force as an entry-level worker in their area of specialty or continue their education in a training school or apprenticeship program.

Students can move from one pathway to another in search of a satisfying career, keeping in mind they must complete the program while accumulating credits required for earning a high school diploma.