

Instruction

Graduation Requirements

To graduate from high school, unless otherwise exempted, 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 Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Participating in State assessments that are required for graduation by School Code, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, unless the student is exempt.

STERLING HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Each student must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully earn the following credits in order to graduate from high school:

4 credits	English
3 credits	Mathematics (1 credit Algebra 1 and 1 credit Geometry)
2 credits	Science
2 credits	Social Studies (1 credit U.S. History and 1/2 credit Government)
1 credit	Foreign Language, Fine Arts, or Vocational Ed.
1/2 credit	Consumer Education or 1 Credit of CWT
1/2 credit	Health Education
3 credits	Physical Education (unless waived by approved method)
1/2 credit	Driver Education (classroom) or an additional ½ credit of P.E.

Required Credits = 16.5 and Elective Credits = 6.5

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED 22

STERLING ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

Students who are Sterling residents and have earned at least one (1) credit during the last semester of enrollment from Sterling High School's Alternative Program are eligible for a diploma that meets the State of Illinois minimum high school graduation requirements. Each Alternative student must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully earn the following credits to receive a Sterling High School Diploma:

3 credits	English
1/2 credit	Oral Communications
3 credits	Mathematics
1 credit	Science
2 credits	Social Studies (1 credit U.S. History and 1/2 credit Government)
1 credit	Either Foreign Language, Fine Arts, or Vocational Ed.
1/2 credit	Consumer Education
1/2 credit	Health Education

Students entering high school as ninth-graders in the 2007-08 school year must meet the above graduation requirements plus:

- 1 additional year of mathematics, with at least 1 year of Algebra I and one year of a course that includes geometry content; and
- 2 years of writing-intensive courses, one of which must be an English language arts course and the other may be provided as part of any subject area; and
- 1 additional year of science, which may be chosen from among any courses of study in the sciences.

Required Credits = 12.5 and Elective Credits = 5

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED 17.5

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 parents/guardians of graduation requirements.

Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for complying with State law requirements for students who transfer during their senior year because their parents(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.

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. 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 parents/guardians.

Veterans of World War II or the Korean 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 GED (high school equivalency).

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/22-27, 5/27-3,-5/27-22, and 70/
23 Ill. Admin. Code §1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6.30, 6.320, 7.50

Adopted: April 25, 1996

Revised: January 23, 1997

Revised: June 24, 1999

Revised: May 22, 2002

Revised: May 26, 2004

Revised: December 15, 2004

Revised: April 27, 2005

Revised: June 22, 2005

Revised: October 26, 2005

Revised: June 27, 2007

Revised: December 16, 2009

Revised: February 23, 2011

Revised: May 25, 2011

Revised: October 28, 2015