

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Manual

Item	Description
Policy Title	Authority for Local School Boards <u>Public-School Units</u> to Exceed Minimum Graduation Requirements
Policy Category	Graduation Requirements and Related Policies (GRAD)
Policy ID	GRAD-001
Policy Date	10/06/2022 <u>10/05/2023</u>
Previous Policy Dates	08/10/1978, 10/01/2009, 03/27/2020, <u>10/06/2022</u>
Statutory Reference	<u>G.S. 115C-12(9d); G.S. 115C-218.85; G.S. 115C-238.66</u>
<u>Administrative Procedures Act (APA)</u>	<u>16 NCAC 06D .0503</u>

~~The State Board of Education provides clear and specific authority to local boards of education to exceed the minimum requirements for graduation established by the State Board of Education.~~

State Board of Education Policy GRAD-004 sets forth the minimum requirements for a student to graduate from high school and receive a diploma. A public-school unit may establish additional high school graduation requirements exceeding the minimum requirements established by the State Board, subject to the restrictions set forth in this Policy.

A student enrolled in a high school overseen by a local board of education who desires to graduate after three years and is at least 16 years of age may request that local board waive the additional local requirements in accordance with the following procedures:

1. The student shall complete and sign a waiver request form provided by the local board. The form must be signed by the student's parent or legal guardian, unless the student is at least 18 years of age or has been emancipated in accordance with Chapter 7B, Article 35 of the General Statutes.
2. An administrator from the student's high school or the local school administrative unit shall meet with the student and, if the student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated, the student's parent or legal guardian, to discuss the implications of graduating in three years. The administrator shall address, at minimum, the following topics:
 - a. Plans for transitioning into higher education, employment, or enlistment in the armed forces;
 - b. Support structures available to the student when the student is no longer in the high school environment; and
 - c. Discontinued access to high school services and programming, including extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics.
3. The local school administrative unit shall verify that the student has met the minimum graduation requirements established by the State Board and submit the request to the local superintendent for final approval.
4. The local superintendent shall approve the request upon verification of the student's eligibility and compliance with the procedures set forth above, no later than 45 days after receipt of a request. If the request is approved during the semester after classes have started, the student may elect to graduate immediately or graduate at the end of the semester. However, if the student does not submit the request until after classes have started, the student shall be required to complete the current semester.