

## EARLY GRADUATION

The School District of Amery requires that all students meet the credit requirements needed to graduate over the course of eight (8) semesters. However, it is understood that some students will find it possible, through careful planning of coursework, to graduate before the traditional four-year timeline.

The intent of this policy is to provide an opportunity for a student to improve his/her educational or vocational future by graduating from High School with fewer than eight (8) semesters of attendance in grades nine through 12. Early graduation may be permitted under the following conditions:

1. To be eligible for early graduation from Amery High School, a student must meet the graduation requirements established in Board policy and administrative procedures.
2. The *Application for Early Graduation* form must be submitted to the High School Principal by no later than the last day of October preceding the requested graduation date.
3. Along with the completed application form, the student will be expected to provide
  - a. A formal letter outlining the reasons for the early graduation request, and;
  - b. A plan outlining the student's educational and/or employment goals for the next two to four years, and;
  - c. A letter from the student's parent/guardian in support of the early graduation request.
  - d. If the student is planning to continue his/her education immediately upon graduation, documentation of the student's contact with the post-secondary institution will also be required.
4. The student will meet with his/her Guidance Counselor to review the student's records and discuss the reason(s) for early graduation in view of the student's educational or vocational goals.
5. Following the conference, the Guidance Counselor will schedule a meeting with the student, the student's parent/guardian and the High School Principal to discuss the student's application for early graduation.
6. The High School Principal will make a recommendation for approval of early graduation to the Board at a regular Board meeting. If the request for early graduation is approved and all requirements are completed, the High School Principal will issue the standard diploma at the regular spring graduation ceremony.
7. Students approved for early graduation are required to be in attendance through the last day of the first semester.
8. If this request is approved, any end-of-semester failures in courses required for graduation will automatically void the approval.
9. Credits earned from home tutoring will not be accepted for credit toward early graduation.

10. Students graduating without completing eight (8) semesters of attendance in grades nine through 12 will not be considered as a candidate for either Valedictorian or Salutatorian.
11. Students approved for early graduation may participate in the regular spring commencement ceremonies.
12. Students with extenuating circumstances who meet most, but not all, of the requirements for early graduation should meet directly with the building Principal and/or District Administrator. Administration's recommendation to the Board for the student's early graduation in these circumstances will be made on a case-by-case basis.

LEGAL REF.:           Sections 118.33 Wisconsin Statutes  
                              121.02(1)(p)  
                              PI-18, Wisconsin Administrative Code

CROSS REF.:           345.5 - Amery High School Graduation Policy  
                              345.52 - Exhibit – Application for Early Graduation

ADOPTED:             March 19, 2012