

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/EARLY GRADUATION

The Board of Education recognizes the advantages of maturity, a broad academic base, socialization (association with peers), and access to co-curricular activities as beneficial to the great majority of students. Therefore, the District does not encourage attempts to complete a course of study for graduation in less than four (4) full academic years. However, the Board will accept modification of the four-year attendance requirements for high school graduation provided the student has satisfactorily completed the credits for graduation as set forth by the State Board of Education and the Brookings School District 5-1.

Students are required to earn twenty-two (22) credits throughout grades 9-12 to graduate from Brookings High School. It is possible to complete the 22 credits by the end of junior year. Brookings High School accepts the student's right to exercise this early graduation option.

Graduation Requirements

General Policy. Learners most effectively obtain the skills and experience necessary to graduate from high school by completing grades 9 through 12 over the course of 4 years. Unless otherwise permitted by Board policy or other applicable law, learners must finish all 4 grade levels in order to graduate.

A. Brookings High School Diploma Requirements

To meet the minimum Brookings High School graduation requirements, learners must complete the credits listed below in accordance with the course requirements outlined in this policy.

- For the graduating Classes of 2026 and 2027, learners must earn **22 credits** to graduate.
- The Class of 2028 must earn **22.5 credits**.
- Beginning with the Class of 2029 and beyond, learners will need **24 credits** to graduate.
 - For additional information on graduation requirements, refer to the Brookings High School Learner Handbook

B. Requirements for Early Graduation Application. Early graduation is allowed at the end of the seventh semester, provided all requirements for Brookings High School graduation of the learners' correlating freshman class have been met. Early graduation must be reviewed and approved by the Principal. Learners who complete their work and are eligible to graduate shall receive their diploma at the end of the school year for their correlating freshman class and may return to take part in the graduation exercises. No separate graduation exercise will be provided for early graduates. The learner's application must include:

1. Learners must communicate their plans to their counselor in the 6th semester of high school before the academic year concludes.

2. The learner must schedule a conference with the counselor, during which the counselor will:

- Review the learner's credits
- Discuss the reasons for early dismissal
- Set up a tentative final schedule
- Provide the learner with a parental/guardian permission form for the early out program

- This form must be completed before the start of the academic year in which the learner plans to complete their coursework and must be returned to the principal.
- Once the form is completed, the learner and their parent/guardian should request a follow-up conference with the counselor and principal.

3. A conference including the learner, parents / guardians, counselor and the principal is mandatory and must be requested by the parent / guardian.

4. The principal will approve or disapprove the request. If the learner disagrees with the recommendation of the committee, the request may be appealed to the superintendent.

5. Academic class rank will be recorded on early graduates at the end of the semester in which they have fulfilled graduation requirements.

6. Graduation exercises occur only once a year, at the end of the school year. The learner's diploma is held until the next regular graduation occurs. If an early graduate intends to participate in the graduation ceremony, the building principal must be notified in writing prior to April 1 of the graduating year. Early graduates' names will be included on the graduation printed program.

7. When an individual is not an enrolled learner at Brookings High School, they are not entitled to the rights and privileges granted to learners, including participation in athletics, clubs, debate, band, prom, and other school activities. Early graduates will be considered graduates of the district once the Principal confers such status upon them, at which point they will no longer be members of the learner body and will forfeit these rights and privileges.

Legal References:

[SDCL 13-1-12.1 \(Rules on classification and accreditation of schools\)](#)
[SDCL 13-3-1.4 \(Supervision of accredited schools\)](#)
[SDCL 13-3-47 \(Classification and accreditation of schools\)](#)
[SDCL 13-33-1 \(Conformity to standards adopted by state board\)](#)
[SDCL 13-33-19 \(Recommended and basic high school program\)](#)
[SDCL 13-55-31.1 \(High school course requirement for opportunity scholarship eligibility\)](#)
[SDCL 13-55-47 \(Jump start scholarship program established\)](#)
[SDCL 13-55-48 \(Eligibility requirements for jump start program\)](#)
[SDCL 13-55-49 \(Amount of jump start scholarship–Installment payments\)](#)
[SDCL 13-55-50 \(Application for admission to approved institution\)](#)
[SDCL 13-55-51 \(Secretary to transfer appropriated funds for scholarship\)](#)
[ARSD 24:43:01:01 \(Definition of terms\)](#)
[ARSD 24:43:11 \(Curriculum\)](#)

1st Reading:	05/09/1994
2nd Reading/Adopted:	06/13/1994
1st Reading:	07/09/2001
2nd Reading/Adopted:	08/13/2001
1st Reading:	08/09/2004
2nd Reading/Adopted:	09/13/2004
1st Reading:	02/08/2010
2nd Reading/Adopted:	03/08/2010
Reviewed:	07/15/2013
Notification:	01/13/2025
1st Reading:	03/10/2025
2nd Reading/Approval:	05/12/2025