

EARLY GRADUATIONIndividual Exception for Four Year Attendance RequirementA. General Policy

State Board of Education Policy 2510 states that "All students shall be scheduled in the defined high school course work, college courses, career and technical programs, credit recovery, Option Pathway, experiential learning, or virtual school courses for the full instructional day during grades 9-12".

B. Exceptions for Educational Reasons

The McDowell County Board of Education shall make the following educational exceptions available to its students:

A student may be granted an exception from being scheduled for courses for less than the full instructional day during his/her senior year due to:

1. Enrollment in dual credit and/or college courses
2. Enrollment in advanced vocational/technical programs
3. Participation in apprenticeships or internships only of related to a career major and a part of student personalized education plan (PEP).

The exception may be granted during the student's senior year for a maximum of four (4) periods a day provided the student will meet or has met the county graduation requirements.

C. Exceptions for Compelling Circumstances

The McDowell County Board of Education has defined the compelling circumstances listed below under which students may be scheduled for less than the full school day as defined by state policy. The exception may be granted for a maximum of four (4) periods either term during their senior year provided the students will meet or have met the county graduation requirements.

1. Parenthood - Students who are also parents may be granted an exception if their parental responsibilities are such that they cannot fulfill the high school full day attendance requirements in the prescribed manner.
2. Family Responsibilities - Students who are married and must work to support a family, or students, who because of disability to their parents, must be available to assist in the home.
3. Financial Need - Students who must work to support themselves or assist their parents in meeting the family's financial obligations.
4. Other – The board may consider a compelling circumstance not listed above if the circumstances can be adequately documented to qualify for an exception.

Reference: State Board Policy 2510

Adoption Date: August 1975
Revision Date: August 10, 1996
Second Revision Date: July 2, 2001
Third Revision Date: August 7, 2009
Fourth Revision Date: February 1, 2016
Fifth Revision Date: June 1, 2020