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Statement of.....

## Policy and Responsibility

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SUBJECT: EARLY GRADUATION OPTION

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### PURPOSE

To provide interested students the opportunity to complete high school graduation requirements at the completion of eleventh grade. This plan is based on the following standards:

1. Senate Bill Number 27, enacted in the 1989 Utah Legislature General Session and,
2. Senate bill Number 129 enacted in 1990; which stipulates that: "Any secondary student who has completed all required courses may, with the approval of the student, the student's parent or guardian, and local school official, graduate at any time following the conclusion of the eleventh grade."

### INTRODUCTION

We appreciate that some students desire to exercise the option of early graduation, and we recognize that the public schools should provide for this choice. However, we believe the twelfth grade to be an important, meaningful, and useful part of every student's educational development. In harmony with the "Shift in Focus" concept, twelfth grade students have a wide range of options to enrich their last year of growth and development in the public schools. For example, high school seniors may elect to become involved in advanced placement courses at the high school with the possibility of earning college credit at greatly reduced costs. Seniors may participate in concurrent enrollment programs where they can earn high school and college credit at the same time. Seniors may participate in the Salt Lake Community College or the Jordan Technical Center where they can become certified in a wide range of occupational skills. Seniors may participate in co-op work-release programs which enable them to earn money and high school credit at the same time. Seniors may participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities. They can obtain educational, leadership, and social opportunities in high school that can be achieved at no other time.

We feel that students should be made aware of every option available and should, with parents and counselors, carefully consider those options. While we do not promote early graduation, we strive to make this attainable alternative for capable, motivated students. We also believe there should be no dilution of the current graduation requirements.

### PROCEDURE

Students interested in graduation after their eleventh grade year will complete the graduation and application requirements outlined below.

1. It is recommended that a student, in consultation with his parent/guardian, and counselor, make the early graduation decision at the beginning of the ninth grade.
2. The student, a parent/guardian, and counselor will develop a Student Education Plan (SEP). The SEP will outline course work needed to satisfy the early graduation goal.
3. The student must complete all course requirements for graduation established by the Murray City Board of Education for students completing twelve years of schooling.
4. The student will attend six semesters in grades nine through eleven.
5. The student will fulfill citizenship requirements for graduation as established by the Murray City Board of Education.
6. The student must submit a completed INTENT TO GRADUATE EARLY application to the school principal as soon as the intent is known.

#### GRADUATION CEREMONY PARTICIPATION

Students who complete the graduation requirements by the end of the regular academic school year will have the option to participate in that year's graduation ceremony.

An INTENT TO GRADUATE EARLY application with appropriate signatures of parents and student will be required to initiate the Early Graduation procedure. Students completing graduation requirements at the end of a particular term, but not at the end of the year, will also have the opportunity of graduating with that year's class providing they acquire and complete a graduation packet at the time they check out.

Students who complete the early graduation program will receive a regular high school diploma.

#### PARTIAL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

A student who graduates from high school at the conclusion of the eleventh grade shall receive a partial tuition scholarship to be used at a Utah public college, university, community college, area vocational center, or any other institution in Utah accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges that offers post-secondary courses of the student's choice upon verification that the student has registered at the institution during the fiscal year following his graduation from high school. The scholarship shall be in an amount equal to 25% of the value of the weighted pupil unit, or, in the case of a student who graduates after the conclusion of the eleventh grade but prior to the conclusion of the twelfth grade, a proportionately lesser amount.

Payments authorized above shall be made during the fiscal year that follows the student's graduation, based upon the value of the weighted pupil unit set for the year in which payment is made.

## ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

All credits toward graduation must be earned from institutions accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and subject to prior approval and review by the High School Graduation Committee.

## COURSES

High School Classes

Regular

Early Morning

Summer

After School

Technical Center/Area Vocational Center

College/University

College credit evaluation

3-5 quarter hours=1/2 high school credit

1-2 quarter hours=1/4 high school credit

Accredited high school or college level correspondence/extension courses

## WORK CREDIT:

One co-op work credit may be used for early graduation.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS:

Students completing the requirements for Early Graduation and leaving school cannot participate in extracurricular activities (music, drama, athletics, etc.) with their senior class.