Barberton City Schools
Graduation and Dropout District Guidance
Policies, Practices, Procedures

Attendance Guidelines for all students and students with disabilities:
Barberton City Schools is committed to supporting strong student attendance and academic success. Attendance is one of the strongest indicators of graduation, and our policies and procedures are designed to track early warning signs and prevent student dropout. The district uses DASL to record attendance and monitor all interventions that are put in place to support students. The following steps are followed:

- An attendance plan is made when a student has 38 cumulative hours absent in one month or 65 excessive hours overall for the school year.
- A student is flagged truant at 42 cumulative hours absent for the month and/or at 72 hours for the school year.
- Once a student has been flagged with absent hours, letters are sent, attendance plans are set and a meeting is held with school personnel , student, parent and the truancy officer. The plan is monitored monthly and adjusted for student needs.
- A truancy officer visits the home once a letter is sent to the family and before filing with the courts.
- Once a student receives a letter, the school is also referring the student to the wellness collaborative (Red Oak, Child Guidance, Peter James) within the district.

District Attendance Secretary Guidance:
Attendance secretaries play an important role in coordinating meetings and documenting attendance interventions. Meetings should be scheduled when a student reaches the excessive absence threshold, shows a pattern of frequent late arrivals or early dismissals, when parents express concerns about school refusal, or when a student repeatedly fails to attend. Communication with families must be documented in DASL, including all calls, letters, and emails. Meeting invitations may be scheduled by phone, letter, or email, but a written follow-up is always required. Families, counselors, and principals are notified through Google calendar invitations. Each attendance meeting should include copies of letters or emails sent home, the attendance improvement plan, and any additional notes, such as updated contact information. If parents or guardians do not attend, the school will attempt to reschedule or conduct the meeting over the phone. If there is no response, a second meeting is scheduled and the Attendance Plan is mailed home with “Did not attend” noted in the parent signature section. All records are kept in the student’s attendance file.

Graduation Monitoring for all students and students with disabilities:

- After each testing cycle (OST) student testing results are analyzed. Data is collected for each student based on the results along with credits received. Individual graduation plans are made for each student.
- At the end of each semester each student's credits are reviewed. For example, a 9th grade student at the end of the first semester should have 2.5 credits. If the student does not have the credits, individual conversations take place to put students in APEX (credit

recovery) if the team feels the student can do the online course. If they can't, the student is flagged to be put back into the class to retake the class the following school year.

- In June, after the first cycle of testing, test results are compared with course credits received or not received. Students are placed on a graduation pathway and on a graduation tracking sheet.
- Each year a google folder is created with each in-coming freshman class. Throughout the year, the intervention specialist (case manager) that is assigned to the student will update the graduation plan.
- All special education students follow the same graduation plan, activities, and requirements as non-disabled peers. Each student meeting with the guidance counselor yearly. Each student meets with a counselor to individually create a schedule. Special education students will review graduation plan templates with their intervention specialist twice a year as an additional activity.
    - After each semester, any credits that were not met will be discussed and a plan will be made on how to recover the credits. Options to recover missed credits include:
        - APEX (summer school and after school opportunities instructed by an intervention specialist)
        - Retake the semester class
- No students on an IEP will be exempted from graduation requirements unless the student has taken the alternative assessment AND did not receive a proficient score AND a graduation pathway can not be met.
- Students will take the Alternate Assessment twice before looking at an alternate pathway.

BHS Handbook Graduation Information:
EARLY GRADUATION
The Board of Education acknowledges that some students are pursuing educational goals which include graduating from high school at an earlier date than their designated class. Students wishing to be considered for early graduation must comply with the following procedures: A. Complete early graduation application form (from the Guidance Office). B. Attend an "Intent to Graduate early" meeting with parents/guardians and the appropriate counselor. C. Complete the high school curriculum/graduation requirements. D. Complete ten hours of service learning experience. E. Meet state requirements. Applications for early graduation will be submitted to the high school principal in accordance with school regulations. The principal may honor this request if all conditions for early graduation are met and the student fulfills their graduation requirements. The students graduating at the end of the first semester will not be permitted to attend any senior activities or participate in any extra-curricular programs second semester. Early graduates may participate in the June graduation ceremonies. Early graduates may apply for any available scholarship opportunities.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS Credits:
Each student must earn at least 21 credits during their high school years in order to be eligible for graduation. (Take note regarding grade level classifications: Starting with the 2021-2022

school year, students must earn 5 credits to become classified as a 10th grader, 10 credits for 11 th grade classification, and 14 credits for 12th grade classification.) Within those 21 credits, students must successfully complete the following:

Number Earned
English 4 credits
Math 4 credits
Social Studies 3 credits
Science 3 credits
Health ½ credit
Phys. Ed. Or qualify for PE Exemptions ½ credit
Fine Arts 1 credit
Communications ½ credit
Economics ½ credit
Elective (this will vary from student to student for some will use the PE exemption, some won't) 4 – 5 credits

Community Service: Hours completed? _____ Ten (10) hours of community service is also a Board of Education requirement for graduation. Hours must be accumulated between May 1 st of their 11th grade year and April 15th of their senior year. Senior hours must be completed after 2:35 on any days students are in school. No hours will be approved or accepted for service done for a single individual.

Classes of 2023 and Beyond Ohio's High School Graduation Requirements
Beginning with the Class of 2023-or those who are 9 th graders on or after July 1, 2019-all students are required to take the End of the Year Course Exams. Students must earn a passing score on Ohio's high school Algebra 1 and English II tests. Students who do not pass the test will be offered additional support and must retake the test at least once. **Please refer to the school website, your guidance counselor or the Senior Assistant Principal for information on graduation requirements. Please refer to the Ohio Department of Education for the most up to date graduation requirements.**

Students studying Advance Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or taking dual enrollment courses in physical science, American History or American Government may take assessments aligned to those courses in place of end-of-course exams to avoid double testing.

If a student does not receive a passing score on the Algebra 1 State Test and the English II State Test, there are three additional ways to show competency.

Option 1: Demonstrate Two Career Focused Activities:
Foundational
Proficient scores on WebXams
A 12-point industry credential
A pre-apprenticeship or acceptance into an approved apprenticeship program.

Supporting:
Work based learning
Earn the required score on a WorkKeys
Earn the Ohio Means Jobs

Option 2: Enlist in the Military
Show evidence that you have signed a contract to enter a branch of the U.S. armed services upon graduation.

Option 3: Complete College Coursework
Earn credit for one college-level math and/or college level English course through Ohio's free College Credit Plus program.

In addition, each student must earn two of the following diploma seals. (Please see the school website, your guidance counselor, Senior Assistant Principal, or the Ohio Department of Education website for more information.)
● Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal
● Industry Recognized Credential Seal
● College-Ready Seal
● Military Enlistment Seal
● Citizenship Seal
● Honors Diploma Seal
● Seal of Biliteracy
● Technology Seal
● Community Seal
● Fine and Performing Arts Seal
● Student Engagement Seal

Additionally, all students will take a nationally recognized college admission exam (such as ACT) in the 11 th grade. The State of Ohio will now pick up the cost of the examination, enabling more students to know if they are ready for college and to see if it is an option.

GRADUATION, DIPLOMA & OTHER SENIOR ACTIVITIES
Revised B.O.E. Policy 5460 To participate in the graduation ceremony and to receive a diploma, a student must: 1. Meet all State requirements. 2. Have earned a minimum of twenty-one (21) credits at or recognized by Barberton High School; 3. Successfully complete all local requirements (including ten hours of service learning experience).