

<b>POLICY</b>	<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND</b>
<b>GRADUATION</b>	<b>SECTION 422</b>
422.1 Early Completion of State Requirements for Graduation 422.2 Commencement Exercises	<b>Approved: 10/11/06 Reviewed: 9/27/06</b>

**422.1 Early Completion of State Requirements for Graduation**

- A. Early graduation means the completion of all requirements for a Maryland high school diploma in less than the regular four-year senior high school program.
- B. Increasingly diverse learning opportunities for high school students now make it possible for some students to complete graduation requirements in less than four years.

Both educational and personal considerations suggest that most students should remain in the public schools through twelfth grade. However, alternative plans may be approved including a waiver of the fourth year enrollment requirement if all credits, assessments, and student service requirements are met and the superintendent or designee determines the waiver is in the best interest of the student. A variety of factors will be considered when making determinations to allow a student to waive the fourth year including, but not limited to career skills, academic performance, and post-graduation plans.

**422.2 Commencement Exercises**

The board acknowledges that commencement represents a ceremony of celebration and student participation is deemed a privilege and not a right. It is the expectation that schools conduct commencement ceremonies at a pre-approved facility in accordance with budget allocations as determined by the Office of Curriculum, Administration, and School Improvement.