

Grades 9–12

A student enrolled in grades 9–12 shall take at least six half-credit bearing courses each semester or a total of 3.0 credits per semester.

Exceptions

In special circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, the principal shall consider an individual student's need for an abbreviated schedule. With parental approval and signature, senior students who have passed all sections of the exit exams and who will complete graduation requirements with less than six half-credit bearing courses per semester (as documented by the District's graduation plan) may request to modify their course schedule. Modified course schedules shall not be less than four hours of daily instruction.

Nothing herein shall prohibit a student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) or Section 504 committee from recommending an abbreviated schedule as a reasonable accommodation for a disability.

*Criteria for an
Abbreviated
Schedule*

Criteria to be considered prior to approval of any individual student's schedule of less than six half-credit courses per semester shall include:

1. The student is enrolled in post-secondary courses being taken on a college/technical school campus (courses may or may not be for concurrent enrollment); or
2. The student is employed for more than 20 hours per week; or
3. The student has parenting responsibilities; or
4. The student's special circumstances are approved by the principal; and
5. Evidence that an abbreviated schedule will help prevent an enrolled student from dropping out of school;

Request for
Abbreviated
Schedule

A student who meets these extenuating circumstances may appeal, in writing, the requirement of six half-credit bearing courses each semester to the principal. The principal's recommendation for all abbreviated schedules shall then be sent to the associate/assistant superintendent or designee for District-level approval. The associate/assistant superintendent of academic services or designee shall render the final decision on all approved abbreviated student schedules.

In no circumstances should a student be enrolled in less than four hours of instruction per day. Study hall courses do not count toward hours of instruction for ADA.

INSTRUCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
STUDENT SCHEDULES

EED
(LOCAL)

**Additional
Requirements**

Students who fail to abide by all the provisions and conditions of the early release or abbreviated schedule shall be enrolled in a full schedule of classes.

Prior to granting permission for an abbreviated schedule, the campus principal should encourage the student and parent to consider the effect that an abbreviated schedule may have on any matters related to University Interscholastic League (UIL), National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), scholarship, college admission, District honors/awards, promotion/retention, change in graduation plan and/or changes to possible endorsements, and other attendance or course enrollment requirements.

**Dropping and
Adding Courses**

Students may drop courses or change their schedules in accordance with this policy and applicable administrative guidelines. The principal shall inform all students of deadlines and requirements for dropping courses or changing schedules at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment for new students.