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specific guidelines before making a plan to graduate early. For example, in California schools, students must typically take three years of English, two years of math, two years of science, three years of social studies, and physical education and electives. In Florida schools, students must complete required subjects, take at least one online course, and pass statewide end-of-course assessments like the Grade 10 English Language Arts and Algebra. Your school counselor can help you figure out exactly what your school and state require and how you can stay on track to meet those goals in a shorter time frame. Graduating High School Early by Taking Extra Classes One of the most common ways to graduate high school early is by earning extra credits. Many students do this by taking classes outside of their normal school schedule. Below you'll find different ways you can earn extra credits and graduate high school early. Taking Extra Classes in Summer School Taking summer school classes during summer break lets you complete required courses while school is out. This can open up space in your regular schedule, helping you move through your credits faster. You can take core classes like English or math, or electives you need to graduate. Take Online Classes Online classes give you the flexibility to learn at your own pace. You can work on these classes during evenings or weekends. As long as the courses are approved by your school, the credits will count toward graduation. This is a great option for students you prefer learning virtually instead of in-person. Gaining School Credits in Night School or Community College Some high school students take classes in the evening at night school or enroll in a local community college. These extra courses can count toward both high school and, in some cases, college credit. It's a great way to earn more credits without overloading your regular school day. Dual Enrollment Another way to gain additional class credits is through dual enrollment. Dual enrollment lets you take college classes that also count for high school credit. You stay enrolled in high school while also attending classes at a local college or community college. This is a great option because it gives you a head start on college while helping you finish high school faster. Test Out of High School Classes Some schools and states allow students to test out of certain classes if they can show they already know the material. This is common for subjects like math, science, or foreign language. If you pass the test, you get the credit without having to take the full class. This helps you move on to other courses more quickly. School Credit Recovery Programs Credit recovery programs are often used by students who have fallen behind. But in some cases, motivated students can use them to work ahead. These programs are usually offered online or after school and let you move through the material at your own pace. If you're focused and determined, you can finish courses faster than during the regular school year. Skipping a Grade in Earlier in School It is a lot more common for students to skip grades when they are younger. If a student skips a grade in elementary, they will end up graduating high school a year younger than most of their classmates. It's easier to skip first or second grade as opposed to a grade in high school because the class material is much less rigorous, and the student would not be missing out on much. If a child showcases high levels of maturity, skipping a grade could be easy and they would finish high school at a younger age Work with a High School Counselor One of the most important steps in graduating early is making a plan with your school counselor. Talk to your counselor as early as freshman or sophomore year. They can help you figure out what classes you need and how to fit them into a shorter timeline. With the right plan, early graduation can be possible. GED or High School Equivalency Exam If traditional high school isn't the right fit for you, taking the GED or another high school equivalency exam might be a better option. It's not the same as graduating early from your high school, but it does allow you to move on to college or a job sooner. It's a different path to the same goal—finishing high school and starting the next chapter of your life. What Are The Advantages of Graduating High School Early? One common reason students choose this path is to start college sooner. By finishing high school ahead of time, you can get a head start on your college education and future career. Graduating early can also save money. Less time in high school means lower costs for things like school supplies, transportation, and other school-related expenses. Additionally, you can begin working earlier, gaining valuable job experience or earning income sooner. What is the Youngest Age You Can Graduate High School? Most students graduate high school around age 18, but some finish much earlier. Typically, students who speed up their schooling graduate around 16 or 17 years old. However, there are rare cases of extremely gifted kids who graduate even younger. These kids usually have unique educational paths, such as homeschooling or specialized programs that help them learn quickly. It also depends on state and school requirements. Do AP Classes Help You Graduate High School Early? AP classes don't usually help you graduate high school early, but they can be very helpful when it comes to college. Most schools require certain classes and a set number of credits to graduate, and AP classes usually just replace regular classes. However, if you score well on AP exams, many colleges will give you credit for those classes. That means you might be able to skip some college courses, which can help you graduate from college early. So while AP classes may not speed up high school, they can give you a head start on college. 1003.4281 Early high school graduation.—(1) The purpose of this section is to provide a student the option of early graduation and receipt of a standard high school diploma if the student earns 24 credits and meets the graduation requirements set forth in s. 1003.4282. For purposes of this section, the term "early graduation" means graduation from high school in less than 8 semesters or the equivalent.(2) Each district school board shall adopt a policy that provides a high school student the option of early graduation. Each school district shall notify the parent of a student who is eligible to graduate early. A school district may not prohibit a student who meets the requirements of this section from graduating early.(3) A student who graduates early may continue to participate in school activities and social events and attend and participate in graduation events with the student's cohort, as if the student were still enrolled in high school. A student who graduates early will be included in class ranking, honors, and award determinations for the student's cohort. A student who graduates early must comply with district school board rules and policies regarding access to the school facilities and grounds during normal operating hours.(4) If eligible for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award under ss. 1009.53-1009.538, a student who graduates from high school midyear may receive an initial award in the spring term following the student's graduation.History.—s. 9, ch. 2012-191; s. 16, ch. 2013-27; s. 39, ch. 2014-39; s. 5, ch. 2014-184. For those high school students who want to start college early, get jump-started on a job opportunity, or who simply don't like high school and want to get out as fast as they possibly can, there is one option that has become increasingly popular.More and more students are hopping on the chance to graduate early, mostly a semester early, in December or January.Of course, it takes some work - and summer vacation might be sacrificed, but the reward of being done with high school a little earlier makes that extra work worth it for some.In light of that, here are five steps to take when exploring early graduation options, according to the website PrepScholar.Figure out when you want to graduateThis is the simplest step, and usually, there is one main option. It's rare to graduate an entire year early, so this is mostly about settling on how to graduate a semester early and basking in the glow over the holidays in December and January.But just in case there are options for earlier graduation, talk with a counselor or an adviser. Know how many credits are neededYou'll need the student handbook or counselor at your school for this one.Figure out from the beginning how many credits are required for graduation, and do the math from there as to how many credits you'll need to complete each year to put yourself in a position to graduate early.Research classes needed to graduateAt this point, it will get a little more complicated.Some schools have different requirements for certain classes that are needed to pass in order to graduate. For example, be sure to know if you need to pass specific math classes, such as geometry or algebra, or just a particular number of math classes. The same logic applies to other subjects, as well. If you're going to college, figure out which classes certain institutions requireHigh schools might have certain requirements for graduation, but colleges might have completely different standards of their own for admission. For example, some colleges might want four years of English classes completed, while the high school only requires three for graduation. Establish a plan of attack on when to take classes With all the above information gathered, it's now time to figure out a schedule of when to take classes, not only during a typical school year, but also in the summer months to help you get ahead. It is a complicated puzzle to figure out, for sure. But with some planning, foresight and, of course, hard work to make sure all those classes are passed, you can celebrate graduating from high school in December or January while your classmates still will have months left.