

## Graduation Project Policy Updates

The Board just approved to support DPI's decision of delaying the requirement of the graduation project for the graduating class of 2010. In addition, the Board decided that the graduation project would be optional for students in that graduating class (2010) who wish to complete it. These students will be recognized with a special cord at their graduation ceremony and a notation on their transcript that the project was completed.

### FAQ

1. What evidence helped the board make a decision?

*Instructional Services Division staff crafted a recommendation based on a survey sent to all school principals, a survey sent to all Graduation Project coordinators, and a follow up email soliciting more input from both principals and coordinators.*

2. Do we have an option to make the Graduation Project mandatory at our school if our principal and Graduation Project committee choose to mandate the project?

*No, the Board's decision was to make the Graduation Project optional student by student in our district. You and your school leaders are expected to encourage students to complete the project, but you are not permitted to require the project. Southeast Raleigh High School and Broughton High School will continue to mandate graduation requirements associated with the magnet program.*

3. Since the project is optional, can school leaders release all students from completing the requirements?

*No, you as school leaders are not permitted to release students. Students will determine whether or not to move forward on an individual basis. You and the school leaders are expected to promote the completion and should not encourage students to abandon work completed.*

4. Since the project is now optional, do we need to remove any and all grades attached to the paper that may be embedded in the English II, III, or IV course grade?

*No, since the research paper fulfills a strand of the Standard Course of Study, use of those grades to help communicate mastery of objectives for the course is acceptable.*

5. What are our school level responsibilities for those students who wish to continue working towards completion?

*Part of our Board's decision was connected to our agreement to maintain all supports for students who are continuing the work towards completion. Students will continue to need support from the coordinator, committee,*

*advisor, mentor, and other teachers. Students will still need to present to a panel of judges and perform proficiently on all four rubrics.*

6. What is expected of the school leaders at this point?

*The school leaders are expected to communicate the decision to students, parents and school faculty.*

7. What is the expectation for the class of 2011 and beyond?

*The class of 2011, and beyond according to State Board of Education policy, are expected to complete the Graduation Project as outlined in the DPI Graduation Project Guide.*

8. Who is responsible for purchasing the cord for graduation?

*Central Services will provide the cords for graduation.*

9. What are the expectations of the coordinator for the current class?

*The coordinator needs to make sure a communication plan is established, determine which students will choose to complete the project, and create a list of those students to forward to the district coordinator.*

10. Why would students want to continue working towards completion?

*The students will receive a cord of recognition for graduation and notation on the school transcript. The students will also be able to include this information on a resume. The students will have the opportunity to complete, with support, a project that is similar to the expectations of a college course. Many students have already invested a great deal of time working towards completion of this project and will want to complete the final elements.*

11. Are we permitted to recognize students in any other way?

*No, schools are not permitted to recognize students by rewarding points, grades, or exam exemptions. Schools may choose to recognize students at awards ceremonies.*