



# 3-Year Graduate Option

Wake County Public School System

*Middle School Presentation*



**WAKE COUNTY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

## Desired Outcomes

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- Explain the 3-Year Graduate legislation
- Share the 3-Year Graduate option
- Cover the 3-Year Graduate scholarship
- Provide the process for applying to be a 3-Year Graduate

## North Carolina House Bill 259

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- A high school student in Wake County Public Schools who is at least 16 years of age your 3rd year of high school and desires to graduate after 3 years may request to graduate after 3 years of being in high school.
- This applies to currently enrolled Sophomores and Freshmen.
- Students must earn the North Carolina required 22-credits to receive the 3-year diploma.
- 3-Year graduates may apply to receive a North Carolina scholarship during what would be their 4th year of high school. Students will apply through the NC FASFA system.

## Who can be a 3-year graduate?

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1. Students enrolled in a traditional high school.
2. Students must be 16 years of age by their 3rd year in high school to be eligible.
3. Students that are on track to meet the minimum North Carolina graduation requirements of 22 credits.
4. Students approved through the 3-year graduate process.
5. Students must apply for the 3-year graduate program prior to the first day of their 9th grade year.

## 3-Year Graduate Scholarship

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- Three year graduates may apply to receive a North Carolina scholarship during what would be their fourth year of high school.
- This scholarship can only be issued if the student meets the following criteria:
  - Enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution. – A school that is:
    - A constituent institution of The University of North Carolina as defined in G.S. 116-2(4).
    - A community college as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2).
    - A nonprofit postsecondary institution as defined in G.S. 116-280(3).
  - Matriculated status. – Being recognized as a student in a defined program of study leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate at an eligible postsecondary institution.

## 3-Year Graduate Application Process

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- A form can be picked up from your students high school during the transition to high school meetings at the beginning of the school year.
- Parents/Guardians fill out the application and submit it to the school.
- A counselor will review if the student meets the minimum requirements to be a 3-year graduate.
- If the student meets the minimum requirements, the administration and counselor will meet with the student and parents/guardians to finalize the application process.
- Students will have to maintain progress towards the NC required 22-credits to remain eligible for the 3-year graduate option.
- The school will notify parents/guardians if a student is not meeting the minimum requirements and the student will no longer be eligible for the 3-year graduate option.

## Key Points

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- It is our recommendation that students complete all four years of high school to prepare themselves educationally for post-secondary plans.
- If a student is approved to be a 3-year graduate, they may have a rigorous schedule that is demanding on time.
- Colleges and universities review rigor and course load when considering student applications.
- 3-Year Graduates will not participate in “Senior Activities” due to their non-senior classification. However, they will participate in graduation.
- Students are not able to participate in any school activities, as a student, after they graduate from their high school. Additionally, students cannot return for a 4th year after they have progressed through the 3-year graduate option.

**Thank you for your time.  
Please direct any questions to your school.**