



## **Policy 4.01 (6) HOW LONG MAY YOU ATTEND HIGH SCHOOL?**

Generally speaking, you may attend high school until you graduate. There are some exceptions to this general rule.

*Q. How many semesters may I be enrolled in high school?*

A. You may not be enrolled in a regular high school for more than 10 semesters, unless your principal approves your enrollment beyond 10 semesters.

*Q. How will my principal decide if I can enroll for more than 10 semesters?*

A. Your principal will look at the reason that you want to continue your high school education and also will consider the progress you have made and your commitment to your education. Based upon those factors, the principal will tell you whether you can enroll in the regular high school beyond 10 semesters.

*Q. In what grade does the 10 semesters begin?*

A. You start counting the semesters when you first enroll in the ninth grade in any public or private school.

*Q. Is there an age limit on enrollment in high school?*

A. You may not enroll in regular high school if you cannot earn the number of required credits to graduate by your 20th birthday, unless your principal approves your enrollment. Your principal will consider the same factors used to decide if you could enroll beyond 10 semesters.

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*Q. If the principal decides I cannot enroll, can I appeal?*

A. If the principal decides that you cannot enroll because you have more than 10 semesters or you will be 20 years old before you can graduate, you can appeal that decision to the Region Associate Superintendent's office. The decision of the Region Associate Superintendent's office is final. To appeal the decision of the principal, you should follow the Grievance Procedure contained in paragraph (13) later on in this *Code of Student Conduct*.

*Q. What if I am not allowed to enroll?*

A. You may enroll in any adult program and earn your high school diploma.

*Q. What about students with disabilities?*

A. If you are a student with a disability, you may enroll in school until you graduate with a regular diploma; satisfy the requirements for a special diploma or until the end of the school year when you have your 22nd birthday.

If students have fallen too far behind in the credits they need to graduate under the 10 semester rule and the student wishes to continue to attend high school, they may make up the missing credits in one of three ways:

1. Register with a high school as a Dual Enrollment student with Florida Virtual School (FLVS); enroll in 4 courses in the high school and 4 or more courses through FLVS. FLVS courses would be completed outside of school.
2. Attend high school and enroll and pass previously failed courses through Pinellas County Schools Adult Education Program in the evening; not during the school day.
3. If the student is in a Drop Out Prevention Program, the student may attend high school, and enroll in NovaNet courses during the instructional day to make up failed credits.

If the student will not be able to earn enough credits within the 10 semesters and they do not want to continue in high school, they have two options:

1. They may withdraw and enroll in Pinellas County Schools Adult Education Program.
2. They may withdraw and enroll in FLVS full time. But, FLVS does not provide students a high school graduation diploma. Therefore, full time FLVS students must declare themselves as home-schooled. See process below. For additional information about this home school option, see below and contact FLVS guidance counselors, <http://www.flvs.net/Pages/default.aspx>