

MEMORANDUM

TO: CSRC Members, Gayle Peay
FROM: Aza Baylor
CC: Andrea Bogie, Sarah Covington, Hadassah Muthoka
SUBJECT: Act 95: Change in Graduation Plans
DATE: May 27, 2024

This memo outlines Evident Change's proposed change to the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) Early Literacy Requirements.

CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

The following are the current graduation plan expectations updated by the CSRC on May 24, 2023.

Each student enrolled at the end of the year shall have a written annual plan for graduation that includes:

1. Evidence of parent/guardian involvement;
2. Information regarding the student's postsecondary plans; and
3. A schedule reflecting plans for completion of four years of English; three years each of college-preparatory math, science, and social studies; and two years of a foreign language. Alternatively, the school board of a 2(r) charter school could set policy specifying criteria for granting a high school diploma.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE IN LITERACY ASSESSMENT DATA COLLECTION

Wisconsin Act 95 guarantees admission into all Wisconsin university system schools for students who graduate in the top 10% of their class beginning in the 2024–25 school year.¹ Additionally, those graduating in the top 5% of their class are granted guaranteed admission into the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The law requires schools to notify the students and include their ranking on their transcript at the end of their junior year.² Guaranteed admission begins for college freshmen in the 2025–26 academic year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Evident Change recommends that the graduation plan maintain the first three requirements and introduce a new component that involves informing students in the top 5% and 10% of their class ranking at the conclusion of their junior year.

Each student enrolled at the end of the year shall have a written annual plan for graduation that includes:

1. Evidence of parent/guardian involvement.
2. Information regarding the student’s postsecondary plans.
3. A schedule reflecting plans for completion of:
 - a. Four years of English;
 - b. Three years each of college-preparatory math, science, and social studies; and
 - c. Two years of a foreign language.

Alternatively, the school board of a 2(r) charter school could set policy specifying criteria for granting a high school diploma.
4. Junior year completion: Top 5% and 10% notifications
 - a. Notification of top 5% or 10% class ranking at the end of junior year. Evidence of notification should include:
 - i. Formal letter to the student/family; and
 - ii. Inclusion on the student’s official transcript.

¹ Schmidt, D. (2024). *Wisconsin Legislative Council act memo: 2023 Wisconsin Act 95*.
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/lcactmemo/act095>

² Student rankings are based solely on student grade point average.