

Hamilton High School Student-Parent Handbook Changes 2026-2027

The following areas or items are being updated in the 26-27 Hamilton High School Student-Parent Handbook. Updated items are highlighted in yellow.

Page #16

2.110 Early Graduation

The highlighted area is being added:

Students who will have successfully completed graduation requirements after seven (7) semesters may petition to graduate. Applications must be submitted to the principal prior to November 1 of the student's seventh semester.

Student(s) must have completed and filed their FAFSA before early graduation approval can be made.

Page #17

2.120 High School Graduation Requirements

The highlighted area is being added:

Note:

1. Students must pass the Illinois and US Constitution tests in high school. Under certain conditions, transfer students may take these tests separate from the US History class, as approved by the teacher, school counselor, and principal.
2. In order to be enrolled in driver's education, students must be age-eligible AND pass all of their classes (at least 7 separate courses) the semester prior to their enrollment.
3. The physical education requirement can be adjusted because of academic classes and/or medical excuses.
4. No prospective graduate from Hamilton High School shall participate in the graduation exercises in any manner or receive a diploma until he/she has met all of the requirements for graduation.
5. Waivers of any type cannot contribute to the total credits required.
6. **At the earliest in the school day students enrolled in Work Study will leave the building is the end of 5th Hour/Study Hall (12:27 p.m.). They will be expected to remain in the building for lunch and study hall.**

Page #24

6.10 General Building Conduct

The highlighted area is being added:

Students shall not arrive at school before 7:50 a.m. unless they have made arrangements to meet with a staff member before school. Students should be supervised at all times. Classes begin at 8:05 a.m., and students are dismissed at 3:05 p.m. each day. **Students are not allowed to leave the building (parking lot) once they enter it unless they are supervised by a staff member.** The following rules shall apply, and failure to abide by the rules may result in discipline:

Page #27

6.30 Prohibited Student Conduct

The highlighted area is being added :

Disciplinary Measures

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include **(and can be increased when students misbehave for substitute teachers)**, without limitation, any of the following measures:

In-School Suspension (ISS). A student will attend school, but will be removed from the general population for the duration of the suspension. The student will work on academic studies in the office/designated room.

Students will not participate in co-curricular or extracurricular activities until the suspension is complete.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds for the duration of the suspension. **Students will not participate in co-curricular or extracurricular activities until the suspension is complete.**

Page #30

6.50 Lunch and Cafeteria Rules

The highlighted area is being added:

Lunch/Cafeteria Rules

1. Students may not leave campus for lunch, except with permission granted by administration or authorized staff.
2. Parents/family members may drop off lunch for their student(s) only and only when necessary. **No food delivery service should be used to provide lunch (Uber Eats, DoorDash, etc.).**

Page #42

Due Process Procedures

Students who are accused of violating the Code of Conduct are entitled to the following due process:

1. The student should be advised of the disciplinary infraction with which he or she is being charged.
2. The student shall be entitled to a hearing before an appropriate administrator.
3. The student will be able to respond to any charges leveled against him or her.
4. The student may provide any additional information he or she wishes for the administrator to consider.
5. The administrator, with the help of other staff members if needed, may interview material witnesses or others with evidence concerning the case.
6. If the administrator finds, after reviewing the evidence, that the violation occurred, he or she will impose sanctions on the student as follows:
 - a. Sanctions for violations other than drug and alcohol will be based on the nature of the offense and the number of offenses, and may include suspension from all sports or activities for one of the time periods described below:
 - i. a specified period of time or percentage of events, competitions, or practices;
 - ii. the remainder of the season or for the next season; or
 - iii. the remainder of the student's school career.
 - b. Sanctions for alcohol and other drug violations, **including tobacco, nicotine in any form, mood-altering or performance enhancing drugs, products composed purely of caffeine in a loose powdered form, paraphernalia or any other illegal substance**, will be based on the following:
 - i. First violation
 1. Use, ingestion, possession, buying, selling, offering to sell, bartering, or distributing: A suspension of one third of the total number of performances, activities, or competitions or the remainder of the season, whichever is shorter. **This penalty will be reduced to one sixth of the season or the remainder of the season, whichever is shorter** if the student is enrolled in a school-approved alcohol or drug counseling program.
 2. Attendance at a party or riding in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being consumed: a suspension of at least one sixth of the total number of performances, activities or competitions, or the remainder of the season, whichever is shorter.
 3. The student will be required to practice with the group, regardless of the violation (unless suspended or expelled from school).

Page #43

9.20 Attendance at School-Sponsored Dances

The highlighted area is being added:

All school rules, including the school's discipline code and dress code are in effect during school-sponsored dances. **Students will need to be in attendance at school all day the day prior to a school-sponsored dance. The only exceptions to this attendance requirement would be but are not limited to: school related activity, medical appointment, dentist appointment, orthodontist appointment, dermatologist appointment, court, funeral, or religious ceremony/event.**

Page #44

10.10 Education of Children with Disabilities

The highlighted area is being added:

Hamilton District 328 provides a comprehensive continuum of special education services in partnership with the West Central Illinois Special Education Cooperative. Services are provided in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Illinois School Code, and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) regulations. Services range from least restrictive to more restrictive settings to ensure students receive specialized instruction and related services in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) appropriate to their individual needs.

The continuum of services includes the following levels of support:

- **General Education with Accommodations:** Students receive instruction in the general education classroom with supplementary aids, services, accommodations, modifications, and assessment supports as identified in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- **Resource and Inclusion Services:** Students may receive direct or indirect specialized instruction through resource support outside the general education classroom for part of the school day and/or through inclusion or co-teaching services within general education core classes.
- **Itinerant and Related Services:** Students may receive related and support services, including speech-language pathology, social work services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, hearing impairment services, and autism consultation services, as determined appropriate by the IEP team.
- **Secondary Transition Planning:** Transition services are provided to assist students in preparing for postsecondary education, employment, independent living, and community participation. Transition planning may include coordination with vocational programs, job placement services, and state or local rehabilitation agencies.
- **Specialized Day Programs:** When a student's educational needs cannot be appropriately met within district-based programs, the IEP team may recommend placement in a more restrictive setting through the West Central Illinois Special Education Cooperative or other approved regional therapeutic or specialized day programs, consistent with state and federal requirements.