

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Student Advisement System

Irwin County High School has a system in which students are advised according to diploma selection by school counselors. Some topics to be discussed during advisement time are career goals, promotion requirements, rules on doubling up of courses, repeating courses, Georgia High School Graduation Tests, registration procedures, and guidelines for credit recovery.

Minimum Graduation Requirements

- During each semester a student may be enrolled in two (2) academic courses and two (2) elective courses.
- A student can therefore earn a maximum of four (4) units per semester OR eight (8) units per year (two semesters).
- Credit for a course is received only at the end of a semester if the student passes with at least a 70.
- **For all graduation classes:**
The MINIMUM units needed to graduate = 28
The MAXIMUM unit opportunities = 32
- In order to graduate, all students are required to attend school for a **MINIMUM OF EIGHT (8) SEMESTERS**, except for those students who are approved to participate in post-secondary options.
- In order to obtain a high school diploma, Georgia law requires all students to complete all state required End-Of-Course Test (EOCT). The EOCT will count 20% of the final grade for the course.

Grade Level Minimum Unit Requirements

- To grade 10 -6 units
- To grade 11 -13 units
- To grade 12 -20 units
- To graduate - 28 units

Grading System

Grades are averaged and converted into letter grades based on the following scale:

A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; F=69 or below.

Teachers will compute students' nine weeks grades as is appropriate for their classes. A minimum of 15 grades is required to determine each Nine Weeks Grade, and a variety of assessments is used: daily grades, quizzes, test grades, projects, oral presentations, etc. Additionally, teachers will administer a comprehensive Nine Weeks Assessment at the end of each nine weeks of classes. Students will receive the following grades (the percent value is indicated) in accordance with the guidelines established by the GaDOE:

Grade 9-12*	
1 st /3 rd Nine Weeks Semester Grade	40 %
2 nd /4 th Nine Weeks Semester Grade	40 %
FINAL EXAM or EOCT	20 %

*Grade Level is based on entry date into high school

The 1st/3rd Nine Weeks Semester Grade and the 2nd/4th Nine Weeks Semester Grade along with the FINAL EXAM or End of Course Test (EOCT) are used to determine the SEMESTER GRADE. Credit for a class is only given with a passing SEMESTER GRADE.

For the following classes English I, Government, English II, World History, Cor. Algebra, Physical Science, Analytical Geometry and Biology which are all year-long courses (skinnies), grades are reported for each nine week grading period. Credit for a class is only given with a passing YEARLY GRADE. Students enrolled in skinnies cannot exempt mid-term exams which are administered at 18 weeks. Students enrolled in skinnies will receive the following grades (the percent value is indicated) in accordance with the guidelines established by the GaDOE:

Grade 9-12*	
1 st + 2 nd Nine Weeks / 2 = 1st Semester Grade	40 %
3 rd + 4 th Nine Weeks / 2 = 2nd Semester Grade	40 %
FINAL EXAM or EOCT	20 %

*Grade Level is based on entry date into high school

Honor Roll

All classes, including skinnies, for which a student receives credit and which are open to all students will be included in determining the average for honor roll eligibility. All eligible classes will be weighted equally in determining honor roll status. All fines must be cleared each nine weeks in order to be on the honor roll.

- **Highest Honors** requires an average of 93 with no grade less than 90 in any block.

- **Honors** require an average of 90 with no grade less than 80 in any block.

All CTAE pathway completers will receive a honor chord to wear on graduation night.

Honors Night

Each year the Irwin County Board of Education honors students for high academic performance during the school year. Requirements for Honors Night are:

- Students must have been on the honor roll for the 3 nine weeks grading periods.
- Students must be on track for a diploma.
- Averages include grades up to and including the 3rd Nine Weeks Grade.
- Joint Enrollment and Early Admissions students are eligible to participate in Honors Night. Their high school and college course grades are included in their cumulative average. Course work completed during the summer as a part of these programs will also count in the cumulative average.
- Honors plaques will be awarded only to those seniors attending Honor's Night who have met Honor's Night requirements for two or more years during their high school tenure.
- All fines must be cleared in order to participate in honors night.

HOPE - Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally

HOPE is the state of Georgia's scholarship and grant program that awards students with financial assistance in degree, diploma, and certification programs at eligible Georgia public and private colleges and universities and public technical colleges.

The HOPE average is derived from all classes that HOPE uses to determine a student's eligibility for the HOPE scholarship and grant program. HOPE averages are comprised of all academic classes as well as some core electives and required courses. (HOPE averages will not be rounded up. This will apply to all areas that the HOPE GPA is used.)

For more information on HOPE, log into your account at www.gacollege411.org or consult a guidance counselor. HOPE averages are provided on a 4.0 GPA scale and will be converted to the standard 1-100 GPA scale to obtain the required average. The required 90 average is equivalent to a 3.5 on a 4.0 GPA scale.

Junior Honor Marshals

An invitation to participate as a *Junior Honor Marshal* at high school graduation ceremonies will be issued to any junior who has a 90 or above cumulative HOPE average.

Honor marshals will be expected to abide by the dress code for honor marshals at graduation:

- Wear church clothes,
- Females wear a dress which is long enough and discreet when raising one's arms to hold up the poles during the ceremony.

Honor Graduates

Any senior who has met local and state graduation requirements and has maintained a **cumulative HOPE average** of 90 or above for the four years of high school (comprised of the numerical 1-100 grade value of all hope eligible classes) will be recognized as an **Honor Graduate**. Averages are computed after the 1st semester of their senior year. **Honor Graduate** averages must be maintained for the remainder of the year in order to retain **Honor Graduate** status.

Any grades earned by students who were enrolled in Early Admission and Joint Enrollment programs will be averaged with ICHS grades to determine the HOPE average for **Honor Graduate** status.

At the graduation ceremony, a class speaker will deliver the senior address. This speaker may be chosen from the **Honor Graduate** group. The **Honor Graduates** will vote by secret ballot for their choice of speaker. After discussing the merits of two (2) seniors receiving the most votes, a faculty committee will vote by secret ballot to determine the class speaker. The faculty committee will be composed of the senior sponsor, school counselor, and principal. Other graduation program participants will be determined by this faculty committee. Each graduation program speaker must practice his/her speech with the faculty members in charge of the speeches. This must be done in accordance with the established practice schedule. Anyone not adhering to this schedule will not be allowed to deliver his/her speech at graduation.

Valedictorian / Salutatorian

The graduating senior who has met local and state graduation requirements and has earned the **highest HOPE average** will be recognized as the **Valedictorian**.

The graduating senior who has earned the **second highest HOPE average** according to the above guidelines will be recognized as the **Salutatorian**.

The graduating seniors recognized as Valedictorian and Salutatorian must have been enrolled at least 3 semesters at Irwin County

High School of which 2 semesters occurred during the Senior Year. In addition, all other state guidelines must be followed.

Senior Graduation Responsibilities

1. A senior must meet all requirements set forth by the state and local board of education in order to qualify for graduation.
2. In order to “march” at graduation exercises, seniors must have earned the required 28 minimum units of credit or be receiving a Special Education diploma.
3. All obligations, both financial and otherwise, must be completed prior to graduation practice.
4. Seniors planning to graduate in May are not required to take 4th Nine Weeks Exams unless they are failing a class or are enrolled in a course which requires an EOCT. All seniors planning to graduate in July or later are required to take final exams.
5. A senior may not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony if he/she is guilty of any of the following:
 - a. Failure to fulfill financial or other school obligations
 - b. Failure to attend all mandatory graduation meetings
 - c. Failure to attend all scheduled graduation practices and to be punctual at each
 - d. Violation of school conduct rules during graduation practices
 - e. Violation of graduation dress code
 - f. Use of tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs at any practice or at graduation ceremony
 - g. Any good and sufficient reason
 - h. **Determination to be made by school administration.**
6. A graduation fee, which is to be determined, is charged each senior to cover the cost of graduation flowers, printed programs, group photograph, security, and the senior picnic. This fee must be paid by the first Monday in May.

Repeated Course Credit

Students, teachers, and advisors should take special care to prevent a student from repeating a course already taken and passed. No credit will be given for taking and passing the same class twice with the exception of choral music, band, occupational child care, and weight lifting. Students who have taken and passed one-half unit of credit for a required one unit course sequence on the *Six Period Schedule* system must, on the *Block Schedule* System, take the full one unit of a course in order to meet graduation requirements. Therefore, the first one-half unit of credit taken and passed will count as an ELECTIVE COURSE.

Schedule Changes

Course schedule changes are handled ONLY through the Counseling Center. Changes made in any other manner are not official. Dates and times for such changes are announced. Anyone desiring to change a schedule after the deadline must present his/her situation to the principal. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, no credit will be given after the deadline. This includes credit for the class from which withdrawn and the newly entered class.

Credit Recovery

Those students wishing to attend credit recovery or take an independent study course should make an appointment in the guidance office to obtain complete information on credit recovery. This program is for students who have failed a class with a 64 or lower or are off track for graduation.

Credit Repair

This program is for students who failed a class with a grade of 65-69. This program will allow students to regain credit without having to take the whole class over. With this program students can only make a grade of 70 nothing higher.

Gifted Education - W. McFarland

K-12 Students in the Irwin County School District who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, academic and/or creative ability are provided with special instructional services by the Program for Gifted Students. Eligibility criteria for placement in this program are determined by the State Board of Education. Referrals for consideration for eligibility for gifted services may be made by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self and other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. For a summary of eligibility criteria or for further information about Irwin County's Program for Gifted Students, please contact the gifted education teacher at your child's school or Dr. Stacie Howard, System Gifted Program Coordinator at 468-9510. The Irwin County School System Gifted Manual is also available on the Irwin County School System website at www.irwin.k12.ga.us.

State of Georgia/Irwin County Eligibility Criteria: To qualify for gifted placement, a student must meet the criteria in three of the following four categories.

1. Mental Ability – 96th percentile
2. Achievement – 90th percentile on total battery or total math or total reading
3. Creativity - 90th percentile total battery OR Three or more school generated products/ performances - score of 90 or above (on a scale of 1-100)
4. Motivation
5. GPA at or above 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) over previous two years OR Standardized motivational rating scale - 90 or above (on a scale of 1-100)

Response to Intervention:

Response to Intervention is a continuum of evidence-based, system-wide academic and behavioral practices to support a rapid response to academic and behavioral needs, with frequent data-based monitoring for instructional decision-making to empower each student to achieve high standards. Support is provided through a multi-tiered intervention system including the following components:

- Tier 1: Standards-Based Classroom Learning
- Tier 2: Needs-Based Learning
- Tier 3: Student Support Team (SST) Driven Learning
- Tier 4: Specially Designed Learning

Child Find:

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth, birth to age 21, who are suspected of, or have a disability or developmental delay in order to provide free and appropriate Special Education Services. Irwin County Schools serves children ages 3 through 21 with identified Special Education needs.

Parents/guardians of students who suspect their child may have a disability should contact the teacher, principal or the school's Student Support Team leader.

Exceptional Student Education:

Special Education services are provided to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Programs are provided for students in all disability areas recognized by the State of Georgia. Programs are provided based on the identified needs of each student. If you child has a learning or behavior problem, or if you suspect that your child has a disability, you should contact the principal or Student Support Team leader at your child's school, or contact Dr. Stacie Howard, Irwin County School System Special Education Director.

Under provisions of the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship, parents of student who receive Special Education services may choose to transfer their children to other public or private schools in Georgia. For additional information, please visit the Georgia Department of Education website at <http://www.gadoe.org>, or contact Irwin County School System Special Education Director, Dr. Stacie Howard, at (229) 468-9510.

504:

Section 504 protects all qualified students with disabilities, defined as those persons having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (Caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, learning).

Parents or guardians of students who have reason to believe their child may have a disability as defined under Section 504 and may require special accommodations in the general education setting should contact the school's principal, counselor, or Irwin County School System 504 Director, Dr. Stacie Howard at (229) 468-9510.

Move On When Ready (Joint Enrollment and Early Admission Programs)

Move On When Ready (MOWR) is a dual enrollment opportunity for students to attend a postsecondary institution full-time during their junior and/or senior year of high school. For eligibility requirements and information about MOWR, contact the ICHS Counseling Center.

Education Career Partnerships: Secondary to Postsecondary Transitions

Education Career Partnership is structured to support and promote postsecondary credit opportunities to ensure that all local systems develop, expand, and promote career pathways and programs of study for seamless transitioning of students from secondary to postsecondary education and into careers. ECP will help develop a well-educated, technically trained, and highly competitive workforce in Georgia that will be widely recognized as the best in the nation. Through a coordinated effort with business and industry, ECP is designed to prepare students for career opportunities by providing an education that is composed of coherent, articulated sequences of rigorous academic and career related courses. This will lead students to postsecondary institutions for an industry recognized certificate/or licensure, an associate and/or higher college degree, and successful employment. Business and industry partners play a vital role in defining appropriate standards of performance, providing input concerning the validity of current pathways, and assessing school programs to assure we are preparing the skilled professionals they need.

Youth Apprenticeship Program

Youth Apprenticeship is an opportunity for student career exploration. The Youth Apprenticeship Program links school-based learning with work-based learning. Students apply for work experiences which are procured by the apprenticeship coordinator. Students will divide the school day between classes and the work-site. Students who permanently leave the Youth Apprenticeship Program before the remainder of that semester must remain on campus for the end of that semester. Only juniors and seniors are eligible for this program. For more information see Mrs. Phelps.

Withdrawals: Transfers/Dropouts

Withdrawals are handled through the Counseling Center. When a student knows he/she will withdraw on a certain date, he/she should report this fact to the Counseling Center and obtain a withdrawal form. The student must return the completed form with all required signatures from teachers and staff to the Counseling Center.

A withdrawing student must have returned all books, paid all fines and cleared all other obligations before a report card, transcript, or letters of recommendation can be issued.