

2021-2022 Senior Release Program Options

Northwest ISD strives to prepare our students for their futures. Our district is committed to providing opportunities for our students and to ensure that their senior year is meaningful and prepares all of our students for the next chapter in their lives. We recognize that as our students approach graduation, they have a variety of choices in front of them including advanced academics, extracurricular activities, practicums, internships, work, college and career preparations, etc. We support students who elect to maximize these opportunities by exploring a more demanding course load. This creates an interesting dynamic for many students who are exploring the next chapter in their lives and preparing to meet the expectations of that next chapter.

The Senior Release Program will allow qualified students the flexibility to meet the expectations for senior involvement at school and home while maintaining a challenging academic workload. Students who qualify may be approved for up to two (2) senior release periods provided they meet the criteria listed in this document. Senior release is designed to support students who are investing their time in advanced academics, extracurricular, co-curricular career pathways and other opportunities.

NISD Senior Release Options

Option 1: Senior Project-Based Research Course

A student who is classified as a senior (Grade 12) may apply for one (1) Senior Release period if they meet the following criteria:

1. Student must be classified as a senior with 20 credits at the end of their junior year.
2. Student must have successfully completed all STAAR End-of-Course exams and be on track to graduate from high school on the Foundation Graduation Plan with an Endorsement (FDEN) during the current academic year.
3. Student enrolls in the Senior Project-Based Research course for senior year:
Course Description- Senior Project-Based Research is designed as blended format course, where students work with their CTE mentor twice weekly to work through their specialized topic which is centered around the students career interest. Each Senior will build a two-year plan focused on life after high school and their future career interest. Students will engage in a variety of topics such as goal setting, real-life finance, “how to college”, time management, personal life skills, and more. This one-on-one opportunity will also provide a student a

chance to hear from business and industry professionals that reflect the students' future career choices. This course is designed to give the student an opportunity to ensure they have strong scores in SAT, ACT, and TSI, as well as earning an Industry-based credential (example: Certified Microsoft Excel Associate). Students will engage in book studies and have opportunities to work on themselves and their future.

4. Student must maintain 95% attendance rate during their senior year to remain eligible for release periods. This will be defined as no more than four (4) excused or unexcused absences per semester. Upon the fifth absence in a semester, the senior release privilege may be revoked and the student required to then carry a full load of seven (7) classes for the remainder of the school year.
5. Student must not have any Out of School Suspensions (OSS) during their junior year.
6. Student must leave campus for release period(s) and provide their own transportation.

The above standards must be maintained throughout the release; otherwise, the release is subject to revocation.

Option 2: Additional Advanced Academic Senior Release

Students that meet all of the above criteria for the Senior Project-Based Research Course may apply for one (1) Additional Advanced Academic Senior Release period if they are concurrently enrolled in three (3) or more Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, or On-Ramps courses during the school day.

Please note: Schedule requests or other course requirements may impede eligibility for release (ex: athletic periods, academy courses, etc.). The principal or principal designee has the right to revoke the senior release period due to the student not meeting any of the above requirements.

Northwest Independent School District Senior Release Program Application

STUDENT NAME: _____ COUNSELOR NAME: _____

RELEASE SEMESTER: Fall 20____ Spring 20____

ADVANCED ACADEMICS RELEASE PERIOD REQUESTED: 1st or 8th

OPTION 1: SENIOR PROJECT-BASED RESEARCH COURSE

A student who is classified as a senior (Grade 12) may apply for one (1) Senior Release period if they meet the following criteria:

1. Student must be classified as a senior with 20 credits at the end of their junior year.
2. Student must have successfully completed all STAAR End-of-Course exams and be on track to graduate from high school on the Foundation Graduation Plan with an Endorsement (FDEN) during the current academic year.
3. Student enrolls in the Senior Project-Based Research course for senior year:
Course Description- Senior Project-Based Research is designed as blended format course, where students work with their CTE mentor twice weekly to work through their specialized topic which is centered around the student's career interest. Each Senior will build a two-year plan focused on life after high school and their future career interest. Students will engage in a variety of topics such as goal setting, real-life finance, "how to college", time management, personal life skills, and more. This one-on-one opportunity will also provide a student a chance to hear from business and industry professionals that reflect the students future career choices. This course is designed to give the student an opportunity to ensure they have strong scores in SAT, ACT, and TSI, as well as earning an Industry-based credential (example: Certified Microsoft Excel Associate). Students will engage in book studies and have opportunities to work on themselves and their future. (Students who seek to have a Senior Release period must enroll in the Senior Project-Based Research course.)
4. Student must maintain 95% attendance rate during their senior year to remain eligible for release periods. This will be defined as no more than four (4) excused or unexcused absences per semester. Upon the fifth absence in a semester, the senior release privilege may be revoked and the student required to then carry a full load of seven (7) classes for the remainder of the school year.
5. Student must not have any Out of School Suspensions (OSS) during their junior year.
6. Student must leave campus for release period(s) and provide their own transportation.

The above standards must be maintained throughout the release; otherwise, the release is subject to revocation.

OPTION 2: ADDITIONAL ADVANCED ACADEMICS SENIOR RELEASE PERIOD

Students who meet all of the above criteria for the Senior Project-Based Research Course may apply for one (1) Additional Advanced Academic Senior Release period if they are concurrently enrolled in three (3) or more Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, or On-Ramps courses during the school day.

Please note: Schedule requests or other course requirements may impede eligibility for release (ex: athletic periods, academy courses, etc.). The principal or principal designee has the right to revoke the senior release period due to the student not meeting any of the above requirements.

Course(s) you are requesting to drop: _____

Submit to the Associate Principal a copy of the following documents before the deadline:

- Completed Northwest ISD: Senior Release Program Application
- Completed Northwest ISD: Senior Release Program Release Form

Student Acknowledgement	Parent Acknowledgement
I have read and understand the criteria for the options for Senior Release. By signing this form, I agree to these provisions and understand that if I fail to comply with these provisions, I could have my Senior Release privileges revoked and be placed in course(s) to complete a full day schedule.	I have read and understand the criteria for the options for Senior Release. I acknowledge that my son/daughter will be leaving school early with his/her own transportation. I also agree to sign the Senior Release Program Form.
Student Signature: _____	Parent Signature: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

- Additional Advanced Academics Senior Release Approval Granted
- Additional Advanced Academics Senior Release Approval Denied

Associate Principal Signature

Date

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR SENIOR RELEASE PROGRAM

Northwest Independent School District
An Equal Opportunity District

2001 Texan Drive • Justin, TX 76247 • P.O. Box 77070 • Fort Worth, TX 76177-0070
Phone 817.215.0000 • Fax 817.215.0170 • www.nisdtx.org

I have read and understand the criteria for the Senior Release Program Options ("Program"). I understand that, if _____ ("Student") is selected for the Program, the Student will have a modified daily schedule and will not be supervised in a traditional classroom setting for all hours of the traditional school day, according to the Student's schedule. I understand that the Student will be allowed to leave school early or arrive late on a daily basis and must have his or her own transportation when leaving campus for release periods.

I understand that approval for the Senior Release Options will be reviewed at the end of fall semester in order to continue in the following spring semester release. The student must meet all criteria to be eligible.

I understand that if the student does not meet these criteria at the end of the fall semester, they may be removed from the course and lose early release privileges.

I give permission for the Student to participate in the Senior Release Program, have a modified daily schedule, and leave campus early or arrive late on a daily basis, according to the Student's schedule.

I hereby release and hold harmless the Northwest Independent School District and all its employees, trustees, and/or representatives (collectively, the "Released Parties") from any and all liability, claims, damages, and/or causes of action, individually or collectively, for any damages or injuries which may be sustained by the Student, me, and/or my property, whether caused by or arising from the Student's participation in the Program. This release applies whether any such damage or injury is caused by the negligence of any of the Released Parties.

Student Name (Printed) _____ Parent Name (Printed) _____

Student Signature _____ Parent Signature

Date _____

Date _____