

Independent School District 15 Saint Francis Area Schools

613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth requirements for graduation from the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is that all students must demonstrate, as determined by the school district, their satisfactory completion of the credit requirements and their understanding of academic standards. The school district must adopt graduation requirements that meet or exceed state graduation requirements established in law or rule.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Credit" means a student's successful completion of an academic year of study or a student's mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district.
- B. "Individualized Education Program" or "IEP" means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- C. "Required standard" means a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, health, and the arts. Locally developed academic standards in health apply until statewide rules implementing statewide health standards under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.021, subdivision 3, are required to be implemented in the classroom.
- D. "Section 504 Accommodation" means the defined appropriate accommodations or modifications that must be made in the school environment to address the needs of an individual student with disabilities.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

The director of curriculum and instruction shall be named the District Assessment Coordinator and shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the school board annually for approval.

V. ASSESSMENT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Graduation Requirements

Students' state graduation requirements, based on a longitudinal, systematic approach to student education and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation, include the following:

1. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.307, subdivision 4, paragraph (d), and to the extent available, to monitor students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analyze students' progress and performance levels, identifying students' academic strengths and diagnosing areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and, based on analysis of students' progress and performance data, determine students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student; and

2. Consistent with this paragraph and Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.125, age-appropriate exploration and planning activities and career assessments to encourage students to identify personally relevant career interests and aptitudes and help students and their families develop a regularly reexamined transition plan for postsecondary education or employment without need for postsecondary remediation.
3. Based on appropriate state guidelines, students with an IEP may satisfy state graduation requirements by achieving an individual score on the state-identified alternative assessments.

B. Targeted Instruction Plan

1. A student under Subparagraph V.A.1. above must receive targeted, relevant, academically rigorous, and resourced instruction, which may include a targeted instruction and intervention plan focused on improving the student's knowledge and skills in core subjects so that the student has a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without need for postsecondary remediation.
2. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.13, 120B.30, 124D.09, 124D.091, 124F.08, and related sections, an enrolling school or district must actively encourage a student in grade 11 or 12 who is identified as academically ready for a career or college to participate in courses and programs awarding college credit to high school students. Students are not required to achieve a specified score or level of proficiency on an assessment under this subdivision to graduate from high school.
3. As appropriate, students through grade 12 must continue to participate in targeted instruction, intervention, or remediation and be encouraged to participate in courses awarding college credit to high school students.

- C. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Students must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level credits for graduation:

- A. Students must earn a minimum of 57 trimester credits in grades nine through twelve in order to graduate and participate in the graduation commencement ceremony. A trimester credit is defined as credit earned in a one trimester class in a five period day. Credits students are required to complete in order to graduate are listed in the curriculum areas below:

Credit Requirements for Class 2023 - 2027	
English	8.0 Credits
Social Studies	8.0 Credits
US History	2.0 Credits
Geography	2.0 Credits
Government or Civics	1.0 Credit
World History	2.0 Credits
Economics	1.0 Credits
Math	5-7 Credits

Science Physical Science Biology Chemistry or Physics Earth and Space	7.0 Credits 2.0 Credits 2.0 Credits 2.0 Credits 1.0 Credit
P.E.	2.0 Credits
Health	1.0 Credit
Future's Prep	1.0 Credit
Arts/Music	2.0 Credits
CTE	1.0 Credit
Electives	20-23 Credits

Credit Requirements for Class 2028 and beyond	
English	8.0 Credits
Social Studies US History Geography Government or Civics World History Economics	8.0 Credits 2.0 Credits 2.0 Credits 1.0 Credit 2.0 Credits 1.0 Credits
Math	5-7 Credits
Science Biology Chemistry or Physics Earth and Space Science Elective	7.0 Credits 2.0 Credits 2.0 Credits 2.0 Credit 1.0 Credit
P.E.	2.0 Credits
Health	1.0 Credit
Future's Prep	1.0 Credit
Arts/Music	2.0 Credits
CTE	1.0 Credit
Personal Financial Management	1.0 Credit
Electives	19-22 Credits

1. Number of elective credits needed is dependent on math credits completed.
2. Personal Financial Management must be taken in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
3. Students entering 9th grade in the 24-25 school year must complete a course for credit in either Government or Citizenship in either 11th, or 12th grade.

B. Credit Equivalencies

1. One credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture education or business department

- may fulfill a one credit in social studies, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
2. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required above, if the credit meets the state physical science, life science, earth and space science, chemistry, or physics academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the school district. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required above, if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the school district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry or physics academic standards prior to graduation. A career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology.
 3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement above.
 4. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
 5. Five credits of mathematics, including an algebra II credit or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics.
 6. Geometry and/or an algebra 1 taken during Middle School will be counted towards the High School graduation requirements, but a High School credit will not be awarded.
 7. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except the very few students with extreme cognitive or physical impairments for whom an IEP team has determined that the required academic standards are inappropriate. An IEP team that makes this determination must establish alternative standards.

VII. EARLY GRADUATION

In rare occasions, students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.07, upon meeting the following conditions:

- A. All course or standards and credit requirements must be met;
- B. The principal or designee shall conduct an interview with the student and parent or guardian, familiarize the parties with opportunities available in postsecondary education, and arrive at a timely decision; and
- C. The principal's decision shall be in writing and may be subject to review by the superintendent and school board.

IX. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FOR VETERANS

A. Diploma

The school district must, upon a request under Paragraph B. below issue a high school diploma to a veteran as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 197.447 who was unable to complete their high school education for reasons related or unrelated to their military service, and who served:

1. during the Korean Conflict; or
2. during the Vietnam War.

B. Request

A veteran may request a diploma on their own behalf, or a family member may make a posthumous request on behalf of a deceased veteran or service member. The high school diploma is awarded based on the veteran's knowledge and experience gained while in service, or the veteran's other relevant lived experience. The school district may require the veteran or veteran's requestor to provide evidence that the veteran was a Minnesota public school student or is a current Minnesota resident.

C. No Report Required

The school district is not required to report on diplomas issued under Minnesota Statutes, section 127A.135.

D. Assistance

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and county veteran service officers may provide assistance to districts fulfilling diploma requests, including but not limited to verification of discharge paperwork.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.024 (Credits)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.13 (Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.251 (Ethnic Studies Requirements)Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (General Requirements; Statewide Assessments)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.303 (Assessment Graduation Requirements)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.307 (College and Career Readiness)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.091 (Concurrent Enrollment Program Aid)
Minn. Stat. § 124F.08 (Education and Employment Transitions Partnerships)
Minn. Stat. § 127A.135 (High School Diploma for Veterans)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0660 (Academic Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0750 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Arts Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1350 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
ISD 15 Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
ISD 15 Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
ISD 15 Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
ISD 15 Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)

Adopted:

School Board
Independent School District 15
Saint Francis, Minnesota