



## **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 one semester of study or a student’s mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district. (Two semester credits equals one academic year.)
- B. “English language learners” or “ELL” student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.
- C. “Individualized Education Program” or “IEP” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- D. “Required standard” mean a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, health and the arts, and 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.
- E. “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 Teaching and Learning or delegate shall be named the school district test administrator. Said person 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 paragraph (k) 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 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, 124D.09, 124D.091, 124D.49, 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 44 credits, as determined by the school district, the following high school level credits for graduation:

### **A. Credit Requirements**

1. Eight credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
2. Six credits of mathematics, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
3. Six credits of science, including two credits to satisfy all the earth and space science standards for grades 9 through 12, two credits to satisfy all the life science standards for grades 9 through 12, and two credits to satisfy all the chemistry or physics standards for grades 9 through 12;
4. Eight credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, in either grade 11 or 12 for students beginning in grade 9 in the 2025-2026 school year and later or an advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other rigorous course on government and citizenship under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.21, subdivision 1a, and a combination of other credits encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;
5. Two credits in the arts satisfy all of the academic standards in the arts;
6. Two credits of health;
7. One credit of physical education or human performance; and
8. A minimum of eleven elective credits.
9. Students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later must successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12. A teacher of a personal finance course that satisfies the graduation requirement must have a field license or out-of-field permission in agricultural education, business, family and consumer science, social studies, or math.

### **B. Credit equivalencies:**

1. One credit of economics taught in a school's agricultural, food, and natural resources

education or business education program or department may fulfill one credit in social studies under Paragraph (A)(4)~~D~~, above, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.

2. Two agricultural science or career and technical education credits may fulfill the elective science credit required under Paragraph (A)(3)~~D~~, 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 under Paragraph (A)(3)~~D~~, above, if the credit meets the state chemistry academic standards or all of the 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. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under Paragraph (A)(3)~~E~~, above.
3. Two career and technical education credits may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under Paragraph (A)(2)~~B~~ or Paragraph (A)(5)~~E~~, above.
4. Two computer science credits may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under Paragraph (A)(2)~~B~~, above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
5. Two Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a mathematics or science credit requirement under Paragraph (A)(2)~~B~~ or Paragraph(A)(3)~~E~~, above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in mathematics or science.
6. An ethnic studies course may fulfill a social studies, language arts, arts, math, or science credit if the course meets the applicable state academic standards. An ethnic studies course may fulfill an elective credit if the course meets applicable local standards or other requirements.

## VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards:  
~~All students must satisfactorily complete the following academic standard to meet the required Graduation Standards:~~
  1. School District Standards, Health (K-12);
  2. School District Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12); and
  3. School District Standards, World Languages (K-12).

- B. Academic standards in health, world languages, and career and technical education will be reviewed on an annual basis. A school district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

\* Reviews are required to be conducted on a periodic basis. Therefore, this time period may be changed to accommodate individual school district needs.

- C. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required Graduation Standards in accordance with the standards developed by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE):

1. Minnesota Academic Standards, English Language Arts K-12;
2. Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12;
3. Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12;
4. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12; ~~and~~
5. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12; ~~and~~ ;
6. Minnesota Academic Standards, Arts K-12.

~~School District Standards, Health (K-12)~~

~~Minnesota Academic Standards or School District Standards, Arts K-12 ¶~~

~~(State standards in the Arts K-12 are required beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.)~~

- D. 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.

## VIII. EARLY GRADUATION

Students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minnesota Statutes section 120B.07, ~~upon meeting the following conditions:~~

- A. All course of 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 post-secondary 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. NOTICE

The school district will notify students and their parents of the school district's graduation requirements within 30 working days of a student's entry into ninth grade.

**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.30 (General Requirements; Statewide Assessments)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 120B.303 (Assessment Graduation Requirements)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 120B.307 (College and Career Readiness)*  
*Minn. Rules Part 3501.0660 (Academic Standards For Kindergarten through Grade 12)*  
*Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)*  
*Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Arts Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)*  
*Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)*  
*Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)*  
*Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (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 Child Succeeds Act)t)*

**Cross References:** *ISD 200 Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)*  
*ISD 200 Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)*  
*ISD 200 Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)*  
*ISD 200 Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)*

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