



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

October 7, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 10.3

TOPIC: Graduation Requirements Policy #613

BACKGROUND: Changes needed to address the MN Academic Standards in science and work toward proficiency on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments for science led to a review of Policy #613.

PROCESS: The School Board Policy Committee has reviewed this policy. It is now being presented to the School Board with the changes notes.

RECOMMENDATION: First reading of this policy.

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school district that all students must pass the Minnesota Graduation Basic Standards tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Written Composition as per state requirements or higher guidelines and must satisfactorily complete, as determined by the school district, all course credit requirements and graduation standards, as established by the school board, in order to graduate **unless a student's Individualized Education Plan describes a different standard.**

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Course credit" is equivalent to 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. "Department" means the Department of Education.
- C. "Unit" means a unit measuring education achievement based on successfully completing the requirements of a given course of study.
- 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.
- E. "Individualized Education Plan," or "IEP," means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- F. "Limited English Proficient" or "LEP" student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.

IV. TEST ADMINISTRATOR

The Director of Teaching and Learning 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. REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION BEGINNING WITH THE 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH 2010-11 AND THEREAFTER

- A. All students must pass the Minnesota Graduation Basic Standards tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Written Composition as per state requirements in order to graduate,
- B. All students must successfully complete the course work as required to meet the State Standards in grades 7 and 8; and effective at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year.

| | 7 th Grade | 8 th Grade |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Math | 1 credit | 1 credit |
| Science | 1 credit | 1 credit |
| Language Arts | 1 credit | 1 credit |
| Social Studies | 1 credit | 1 credit |
| Physical Education/Health | 1 credit | 1 credit |
| Agriculture | 0 credit | 0 credit |
| Art | .25 credit | 0 credit |
| Business | .25 credit | 0 credit |
| FACS | .25 credit | 0 credit |
| Industrial Technology | .25 credit | 0 credit |
| Music | 1 credit | 0 credit |
| World Language | 0 credit | 0 credit |
| Electives | 0 credit | 2 credits |
| Total | 7 credits | 7 credits |

- C. All 9-12 students must successfully engage in an appropriate number of credits as minimally defined by state statute.
- D. Seventh or eighth grade students who successfully complete a course offered in grades 9-12 will also receive elective/required credit.
- E. A student must also:

Complete the required number of credits in grades 9 - 12.
 2008 & 2009 Graduating Classes: 28 total credits are required.
 2010 Graduating Class: 27 total credits are required.
 2011 Graduating Class and Thereafter: 26 total credits are required.
 These must include:

Language Arts – Four credits
 9th Grade English (1 credit)
 10th Grade English (1/2 credit)
 Modern American Voices or Modern American Literature (1/2 credit)

Basic Communication or Speech (1/2 credit)
 Effective starting with the 2008-09 school year:
 College-Prep Composition, CIS University Writing and Critical Reading, Creative Writing, Technical Writing, or Journalism (1/2 credit)

The remaining Language Arts credits may be selected from any of the Language Arts Courses at the Senior High School.

Social Studies – ~~Four~~ **Three and one-half** credits

9th Grade Civics (1/2 credit) and 9th Grade Careers (1/2 credit)

U.S. History I and U.S. History II (1 credit)

World History (1 credit)

Economics (1/2 credit)

~~Elective Social Studies Course~~ (1/2 credit)

Mathematics – Three credits

Core I (1 credit)

Core II (1 credit)

Core III (1 credit)

OR

Algebra I (1 credit)

Geometry (1 credit)

Algebra II (1 credit)

Science – Three **and one-half** credits

9th Grade Science (1 credit)

Biology (1 credit)

Chemistry (~~1/2~~ 1 credit) **or Physics (1 credit)**

~~Elective Science Course~~ **Earth Science** (1/2 credit)

~~The following courses in the Agriculture Education Department also fulfill the 1/2 credit for elective science:~~

~~Natural Resource Science~~

~~Environmental Management~~

~~Animal Science~~

~~Animal Health~~

~~Plant Science—Concepts~~

~~Plant Science—Propagation~~

~~Biotechnology in Agri-Science~~

~~CIS Plant Science~~

~~CIS Animal Science~~

The Arts – One Credit

9th Grade – 12th Grade (1 credit)

Physical Education – One credit

9th Grade (1/2 credit)

10th Grade (1/2 credit)

Health – One-half credit

~~Family & Consumer Sciences or Industrial Technology~~ – One-fourth credit
~~9th Grade (1/4 credit)~~

~~Business~~ – One-fourth credit
~~9th Grade (1/4 credit)~~

Elective Credits

~~2008 & 2009 Graduating Classes~~ – 11 credits

2010 Graduating Class – 10 credits

2011 Graduating Class and Thereafter – 9 credits

2015 Graduating Class and Thereafter – 9.5 credits

The electives credits may be selected from any department in grades 9-12.

Total Graduation Requirements must be met by the last day of the school year in order for a student to participate in commencement ceremonies.

or

- F. Have met the requirements of an I.E.P., a 504 Plan or an L.E.P. Plan.

VI. EARLY GRADUATION

Students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minn. Stat. § 120B.07, upon meeting the following conditions:

1. All credit and basic skill test requirements must be met.
2. 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.
3. The principal's decision shall be in writing and may be subject to review by the superintendent and school board.

VII. 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. The school district also will notify students in grades 9-12 in 2003-2004 or who transfer into the district and their parents of the school district's transition to the course credit system and options for students in grades 9 and above in 2003-2004 regarding locally established graduation requirements within 30 working days.

ADOPTED: 07/06/98
REVISED: 03/06/00
REVISED: 12/04/00
REVISED: 05/07/01
REVISED: 12/01/03
REVISED: 06/02/05
REVISED: 01/03/08
REVISED: 05/06/10