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613 – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

[Note: The requirements set forth in this policy govern the graduation standards that Minnesota public schools must require for a high school diploma for all students.]

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.
- B. “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.
- C. “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.
- D. “Individualized Education Plan,” or “IEP,” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- E. “Required standard” means: (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and the arts, and (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health.
- F. “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.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction or designee 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. 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:

- A. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, as measured against a continuum of empirically derived, clearly defined benchmarks focused on students' attainment of knowledge and skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without the need for postsecondary remediation and which facilitates the monitoring of students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analysis of students' progress and performance levels, identification of students' academic strengths and diagnosis of areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and determination of students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student based on analysis of students' progress and performance data; and
- B. Consistent with this paragraph and Minn. Stat. §120B.125 (*see Policy 604, Section II.H.*), 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section 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.
- E. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section and who are students in grade 11 or 12 and who are identified as academically ready for a career or college are actively encouraged by the school district 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 to graduate from high school.
- F. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

VI. **DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

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

- A. Eight (8) semester credits of language arts;
- B. Seven (7) semester credits of social studies encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics;
- C. Six (6) semester credits of science to include courses that meet all required Minnesota Academic Standards for science, including at least:
 - 1. one credit of biology;
 - 2. one credit of chemistry or physics; and
 - 3. one elective credit of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy

- i. all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and
 - ii. all other academic standards in science
- D. Six (6) semester credits of mathematics, including an algebra II credit or its equivalent, geometry, statistics and probability, or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics. Students in the graduation class of 2015 and beyond must complete an algebra I credit by the end of 8th grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics;
- E. One (1) semester credit of Health in grades 9-12 encompassing district-adopted standards.
- F. Three (3) semester credits of physical education encompassing district-adopted standards.
- G. Two (2) semester credits of Fine Arts that meet all required Minnesota Academic Standards for the Arts.
- H. One (1) semester credit that includes financial literacy.
- I. A minimum of fourteen (14) semester elective credits for students graduating in 2024. For students graduating after 2024, refer to the table below:

Graduation Requirements	Class of 2025 SR	Class of 2026 & beyond
English	8	8
Health	1	1
Mathematics	6	6
Physical Education	3	3
Science	6	6
Social Studies	7	7
Fine Arts	2	2
Financial Literacy *Local Requirement	1	1
Required Elective Credits	18	16
Pathway Electives (2 per year)	8	8
General Elective Credits	10	8
Total credits required to graduate	52	50

A minimum of fourteen (14) elective credits for Area Learning Center (ALC) students graduating in 2024. For ALC students graduating after 2024, refer to the table below:

ALC Graduation Requirements	Class of 2024 SR	Class of 2025 & beyond
English	8	8
Mathematics	6	6
Social Studies	7	7
Science	6	6
Fine Art	2	2
Health	1	1
PE	3	3
Financial Literacy (21st Century Skills) *State Requirement	1	1
Required Elective Credits	14	9
Total credits required to graduate	48	43

J. Credit equivalencies

1. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agricultural, food, and natural resources education or business education program or department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies under Paragraph E., above, 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 under Paragraph C., 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 C., 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. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under Paragraph C., above.
3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under Paragraph A. Or Paragraph D., above.
4. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under Paragraph A., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
5. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a mathematics or science credit requirement under Paragraph C. or Paragraph 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.

[Note: Starting in the 2026-27 school year, a high school must offer an ethnic studies course; in elementary and middle schools by the 2027-28 school year.]

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic 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. 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 Academics Standards, Science K-12;
 4. Minnesota Academics Standards, Social Studies K-12; and
 5. Minnesota Academics Standards, Physical Education K-12.
- C. State standards in the Arts K-12 are available, or school districts may choose to develop their own standards.
- 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.
- E. Meeting the requirements of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan.

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 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.

- C. The principal's decision shall be in writing and may be subject to review by the superintendent and school board.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.024 (Graduation Requirements; Course Credits)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Involuntary Career Tracking Prohibited)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0800-3501.0815 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
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 Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References:

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