

*Adopted:* \_\_\_\_\_ *MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613*

*Orig. 1997*

*Revised:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Rev. 2024*

**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 ~~entering grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later~~ must demonstrate, as determined by the school district, their satisfactory completion of the credit requirements and their-an 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.~~

~~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” 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, 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.

~~[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this change. Paragraphs B and C are flipped to create alphabetical order.]~~

- 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 Data and Assessment Coordinator shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the school board annually for approval.

#### V. ASSESSMENT GRADUATION-~~ASSESSMENT~~ REQUIREMENTS

##### A. Graduation Requirements

~~For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, students'~~Students' state graduation requirements, based on a longitudinal, systematic approach to student education and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation, include the following:

- A1. 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~~consistent with paragraph (k) and ~~skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance~~the extent available, to ~~succeed in a career or college without the need for postsecondary remediation and which facilitates the monitoring of students'~~monitor students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; ~~analysis of students'~~analyze students' progress and performance levels, ~~identification of students'~~identifying students' academic strengths and ~~diagnosis of~~diagnosing areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and ~~determination of students', 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 ~~based on analysis of students' progress and performance data;~~ and
- B2. Consistent with this paragraph and Minnesota Statutes, section 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.

~~€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.

~~D. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section~~  
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.

~~E. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section~~  
Consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.13, 124D.09, 124D.091, 124D.49, and who are students related sections, an enrolling school or district must actively encourage a student in grade 11 or 12 ~~and who are~~ is 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~~ 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.

[NOTE: The revisions in Paragraphs A and B align the model policy language with Minnesota Statutes 120B.303.]

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 beginning 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2019-2020 school year and later~~ Students must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level credits for graduation:

To maintain equivalency between trimester and semester systems, the following guidelines are established for yearly credit requirements. Two trimester credits are considered equivalent to a year-long course. When transferring from a semester system, students who have completed two semester-long courses will be recognized as meeting the yearly credit requirement, as long as the credits are sufficient to satisfy all Minnesota State Academic Standards.

AA. Credit Requirements

1. ~~Four~~ Eight ~~trimester~~ credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
- ~~B~~ 2. ~~Three~~ Seven ~~trimester~~ credits of mathematics, ~~including an algebra II credit or its equivalent,~~ sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
- ~~C~~. ~~An algebra I credit by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade standards in mathematics;~~
- ~~D~~ 3. ~~Three~~ Six ~~trimester~~ credits of science, including ~~at least: (a) one credit of biology; (b) one credit of chemistry or physics; and (c) one elective credit of one credit to satisfy all the earth and space. The combination of credits must be sufficient~~ science standards for grades 9 through 12, one credit to satisfy (i) all of the academielife science standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) for grades 9 through 12, and one credit to satisfy all other academiethe chemistry or physics standards in scieneefor grades 9 through 12;
- ~~4~~ E. ~~Four~~ Three and one half Eight ~~trimester~~ credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, social science 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;
- ~~F~~ [NOTE: This revision includes the 2024 change on implementation of the government and citizenship requirement to the 2025-26 school year.]
- ~~5~~. ~~One~~ Two ~~trimester~~ credit in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the ~~state or local~~ academic standards in the arts; ~~and~~
- ~~G~~ 6. One ~~half~~ trimester credit in career and life development;
- ~~H~~ 6 7. One trimester credit sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in personal finance in accordance with Minnesota state statute;
- ~~8~~. ~~Credit~~ Two trimester credits of physical education and one trimester credits of health education, sufficient to satisfy the state standards in physical education; and
- ~~7~~ 9. Additionally, sixteen trimester elective credits, paired with the thirty-six

~~(36) required trimester credits listed above to total fifty-two (52) trimester credits. A minimum of seven elective credits.~~

- ~~8. Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> who begin grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year will be required to and later must successfully complete one half course for credit of 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.~~

~~I. A minimum of seven elective credits.~~

~~J. Note: The revisions above align the policy language with Minnesota law, including changes enacted by the 2024 Minnesota legislature concerning physical education credit and state standards in health. Paragraph 8 was enacted in 2023; it affects students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-25 school year.~~

B. 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 ~~ED~~A., 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 ~~DC~~., 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 ~~DC~~., 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 academic standards or~~ all of the physics academic standards prior to graduation. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under Paragraph ~~DC~~., above.
3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph ~~FE~~., above.
4. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under Paragraph B., 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 B. or Paragraph ~~DC~~., 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: The revisions above align the policy language with Minnesota law, including changes enacted by the 2024 Minnesota legislature. 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. Academic standards in health, world languages, and career and technical education will be reviewed per district curriculum review cycle, 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.

- D. State standards in the Arts K-12 are available, or school districts may choose to develop their own standards.

- E. Career and College Readiness Standards
- F. 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 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 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.

**Source:** Cambridge-Isanti Schools

**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 ~~the World's Best Workforce~~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 ~~Testing and Reporting System~~Assessments)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.303 (Assessment Graduation Requirements)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.307 (College and Career Readiness)  
Minn. Rules ~~Parts~~Part 3501.0640-3501.06550660 (Academic Standards for Language ArtsFor Kindergarten through Grade 12)  
Minn. Rules ~~Parts~~ 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Arts Standards for ~~the Arts~~Kindergarten through Grade 12)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.~~0955~~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 Student Succeeds Act)

***Cross References:***

Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)

Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)

Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)

Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)

Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)

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