

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 283

SECTION/FILE: 613

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TITLE Graduation Requirements

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**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~~ The policy of the school district that all students ~~must pass the Minnesota Graduation Basic Standards tests or the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments Second Edition (MCA-II's) 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~~ **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 rule or law.**

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. ~~“Course Credit” - is equivalent to~~ 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.
- B. ~~“Department” means the Department of Education.~~
- C. ~~“Credit” means a unit measuring education achievement based on successfully completing the requirements of a given course of study.~~
- DB. “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.**
- EC. “Individualized Education Program,” or “IEP,” means - a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.**
- FD. “Limited English Proficient” or “LEP” Multilingual Learner or ML student means - an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.**
- E. Required standard - 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 health standards under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.021, subdivision 3, are required to be implemented in the classroom.**

**IV. TEST ADMINISTRATOR**

A Director of ~~Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment~~ 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. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

~~A. All students must satisfactorily complete, as determined by the school district, either the basic skills requirements for students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year or the MCA-II's for students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year.~~

### BA. Credit Requirements

~~Students beginning ninth grade in the 2004-2005 school year and later~~ must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation:

1. Eight credits of language arts ~~sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;~~
2. Six credits of mathematics, ~~encompassing at least algebra, geometry, statistics and probability~~ sufficient to satisfy ~~all of the academic standards in mathematics; or make successful progress through four years of math;~~
3. Six credits of science, including ~~at least one~~ ~~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 ~~in biology;~~
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 or seven credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship and world history, one one-half credit of economics taught in a schools social studies or business department~~ sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;
5. Two credits in the arts ~~sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in the arts; two credits of physical education; and 2 credits of health; and;~~
6. One credit in physical education sufficient to satisfy the state standards in physical education;
7. One credit in health;
68. A minimum of twelve elective course credits.
9. ~~Students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later must successfully complete a course credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12.~~

#### 7. Options for meeting graduation requirements

##### ~~Waivers~~

~~— Students who choose to take more rigorous course work in any particular subject area may waive a requirement in that area. Reasons for waiving a requirement might include scheduling difficulties. Students must have permission of the respective Department Chair and a counselor.~~

##### ~~Health~~

~~— Students who will be taking International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement preparatory course work in 10<sup>th</sup> grade may take Health 10 in summer school instead of during the school year.~~

##### ~~Physical Education~~

~~— Students who will be taking International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement preparatory course work in 10<sup>th</sup> grade may take P.E. 10 in summer school instead of during the 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 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 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 academic standards as approved by the school district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry 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.
3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a math or arts credit requirement.
4. A computer science credit may fulfill a math credit requirement if the credit meets state academic standards in math.
5. 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 2026-2027 school year, a high school must offer an ethnic studies course; in elementary and middle schools by the 2027-2028 school year.]

**C. All students must satisfactorily complete ~~the following required Graduation Standards~~ demonstrate their understanding of the following required ~~Graduation Standards~~ academic standards:**

1. ~~Commencing with the 2003-2004 school year, all students entering the ninth grade must satisfactorily complete the following Minnesota Academic Standards, in accordance with the standards developed by the Department of Education:~~
  - a) Minnesota Academic Standards, Language Arts K-12 (2003);
  - b) Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12 (2003);
  - c) Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12 (2004);
  - d) Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12 (2004); and
  - e) Minnesota Academic Standards or locally developed standards, Arts K-12 (2003);
  - f) Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education; and
  - g) School District Standards in Health, Career and Technical Education; and World Languages.

**VI. EARLY GRADUATION**

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

- A. All course or standards and credit requirements must be met.

**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.

**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 (~~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)  
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 Parts 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 Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards for 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)  
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180 (Rules Relating to Graduation Standards-  
Mathematics and Reading)~~  
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0200-3501.0290 (Rules Relating to Graduation Standards-  
Written Composition)~~  
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505-3501.0635 (K-12 Standards)~~  
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)  
~~20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (No Child Left Behind 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 (~~Basic Standards~~-Testing, Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP, Section 504 Accommodation, and LEP Students)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)