



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

**January 2, 2014**

**AGENDA ITEM: 11.2**

**TOPIC: Graduation Requirements Policy #613**

**BACKGROUND:** The purpose of this policy is to set forth the school district's requirements for graduation.

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval 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 Program 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 Program," 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 complete the course work as required to meet the State Standards in grades 7 and 8 effective at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year.

	7th Grade	8th Grade
Math	1 credit	1 credit
Science	1 credit	1 credit
Language Arts	1 credit	1 credit
Social Studies	1 credit	1 credit
PE/Health	1 credit	1 credit
Agriculture	0 credit	0.5 or 1.0 elective
Art	0.5 elective	0.5 or 1.0 elective
Business	0.5 elective	0.5 or 1.0 elective
FACS	0.5 elective	0.5 or 1.0 elective
Ind. Tech.	0.5 elective	0.5 or 1.0 elective
Music	0.5 or 1.0 elective	0.5 or 1.0 elective
World Lang.	0 credit	0.5 or 1.0 elective
RtI Reading	0.5 or 1.0 elective	0.5 or 1.0 elective
RtI Math	0.5 or 1.0 elective	0.5 or 1.0 elective
Elective Choice	2 credits	2 credits
Total Credits	7	7

- C. All 9-12 students must successfully engage in an appropriate number of credits as minimally defined by state statute.

9th - 12th Grade	2012-2014	2015 & Thereafter
Math	3 credits	3 credits
Science	3 credits	3.5 credits
Language Arts	4 credits	4 credits
Social Studies	3.5 credits	3 credits
* Economics	0.5 credit	0.5 credit
PE/Health	1.5 credits	1.5 credits
Agriculture	0 credit	0 credit
Art	0 credit	0 credit
Business	0.25 credit	0 credit
FACS	0.25 credit	0 credit
Ind. Tech.	Either dept.	0 credit
Music	0 credit	0 credit
The Arts	1 credit	1 credit
World Lang.	0 credit	0 credit
Electives	9 credits	9.5 credits
Credits for Graduation	26/28	26/28
* This credit may be fulfilled in Social Studies, Business or Agriculture.		

- D. Seventh or eighth grade students who successfully complete a course offered in grades 9-12 or equivalent to a course offering in grades 9-12 will also receive elective/required credit.
- E. A student must complete *a minimum of 26 credits in grades 9-12 including specific departmental course requirements and general electives. Credit requirements are defined in the High School Registration Guide. Course requirements are approved by the School Board as recommended by the Superintendent, with input from Director of Teaching and Learning, Secondary Principals, and specific departments through curriculum review.*

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**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**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade English (1 credit)**

**10<sup>th</sup> 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 – Three and one-half credits 2012-2014 /**

**Three credits – 2015 & Thereafter**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics (1/2 credit) and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Careers (1/2 credit)**

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

**World History (1 credit)**

**Elective Social Studies Course (1/2 credit) 2012-2014**

**Economics – One-half credit – 2012 & Thereafter**

**This credit may be fulfilled in Social Studies, Business or Agriculture**

**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 credits 2012-2014 / Three and one-half credits – 2015 & Thereafter**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (1 credit)**

**Biology (1 credit)**  
**Chemistry (1 credit) or Physics (1 credit)**  
**Earth Science (1/2 credit) – Beginning in 2015**

**The Arts – One Credit**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (1 credit)**

**Physical Education – One credit**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade (1/2 credit)**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Grade (1/2 credit)**

**Health – One-half credit**

**Elective 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

REVISED: 12/02/10

REVISED: 01/05/12