

Adopted: 4/1997
Reviewed: 1/14/2021
Revised: 1/28/2021
Rescinds: IKF

613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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 2011-2012 school year and earlier must satisfactorily complete, as determined by the school district, all credit requirements, all state academic standards, or local standards where state standards do not apply, and successfully pass graduation examinations, as required, in order to graduate. For students entering grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, the school district's policy is that 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. "Academic standard" means: (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, or the arts, or (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health, the arts, career and technical education, or world languages.
- B. "Credit" means a student's successful completion of a semester of study or a student's mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district, and sufficient to satisfy applicable academic standards
- 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 Program" or "IEP" means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- E. "English language learners" or "EL" student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.

- F. “GRAD” means the graduation-required assessment for diploma that measures the reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency of high school students.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATOR

The Assessment, Data and Research Coordinator shall serve as the school district assessment administrator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures.

V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Graduation assessment requirements for students first enrolled in grade 8 in 2011 12 or earlier are:
 - 1. Meet or have met graduation assessment requirements through routes related to the Graduation-Required Assessments for Diploma (GRAD)*; OR
 - 2. Take or have taken The ACT + Writing, the WorkKeys, the Compass, or the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB); OR
 - 3. Meet or have met district alternative, equivalent assessment to satisfy the graduation assessment requirements.
- B. Students first enrolled in grade 8 in 2012-13 or later are not required to take any graduation assessments. However, all students must:
 - 1. Be provided the opportunity to participate in a district-provided college entrance exam in grade 11 or grade 12; AND
 - 2. Be provided assistance, no later than grade 9, in exploration and planning activities for career interests or post-secondary education.

VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Students who first enrolled in grade 9 in the 2015-16 school year must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, 32 high school level credits for graduation. Requirements for graduation are as follows:
 - 1. Successfully complete the following courses: Geography 9, English9, Math 9, Earth/Physical Science 9;
 - 2. Successfully complete 32 high school level credits in grades 10-12.
 - a. Six credits of social studies, including world history, American history, government, and economics;
 - b. Four credits of mathematics, including geometry and algebra II;

- c. Four credits of science, including biology and chemistry;
 - d. Two credits in the arts;
 - e. One credit of health;
 - f. One credit of physical education; and
 - g. Eight credits of electives.
- B. Students who first enrolled in grade 9 in the 2016-2017 school year or later must successfully complete 46 high school level credits for graduation.
- 1. Eight credits of language arts;
 - 2. Six credits of mathematics, including two credits of geometry, two credits of Algebra II, and two credits of statistics and probability;
 - 3. Six credits of science, including two credits of physical science, two credits of biology and two credits of chemistry;
 - 4. Seven credits of social studies, including one credit of geography, two credits of world history, two credits of American history, one credit of government and one credit of economics
 - 5. Two credits in the arts;
 - 6. One credit of health;
 - 7. One credit of physical education;
 - 8. Incoming freshman must complete one credit of College and Career Planning, required during freshman year. This requirement may be met by:
 - a. Success 191, AVID Elective 9, college and career planning content-based English language development course, or coursework aligned to IEP transition goals.
 - b. Students enrolling in subsequent years will be required to complete an additional elective credit to meet the number required.
 - 9. Fourteen credits of electives.

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards:

1. District determined standards, Health (K-12)
 2. District determined standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12) and
 3. District adopted standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, World Language (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 Academic Standards, Science K-12;
 4. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12;
 5. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12; and
 6. Minnesota Academic Standards, Arts K-12.
- C. 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 Minn. Stat. § 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.

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: Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)