



Adopted: 03/20/00

Reviewed: 2019, 2022

Revised: 04/20/20, 11/21/2022, 2/19/25, 5/18/26

Orig. 1997

## **613R 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, 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" 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.
- 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 "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**

A designee from the Department of Learning and Innovations chosen by the superintendent shall be named the District Assessment Coordinator. 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 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.
- 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. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Students beginning 8th grade in the 2023-24 school year and beyond, must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation (*one (1) course credit = 1 semester*):
1. *Eight* credits (4 years) of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
  2. *Six* credits (3 years) of mathematics, including an algebra II credit or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
  3. *Six* credits (3 years) of science, including one credit to satisfy all the earth and space science standards for grades 9 through 12, one credit to satisfy all the life science standards for grades 9 through 12, and one credit to satisfy all the chemistry and physics standards for grades 9 through 12;
  4. *Seven* credits (3.5 years) including credit for a course in government and citizenship in either grade 11 or 12 for students beginning 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 section 120B.021, 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;
  5. *Two* credits in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts;
  6. *One* credit sufficient to satisfy the state standards in physical education;
  7. *One* credit sufficient to satisfy the state standards in health;
  8. *One* credit of career and technical education, and
  9. *One* credit of Personal Finance
  10. A minimum of *seventeen elective* course credits.

### Credit equivalencies

- a. A one credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture, food, and natural resources education or business department may fulfill a one credit in social studies under VI.A.4., , above, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.



- b. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under VI.A.3, 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.
  - c. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under VI.A.3. , 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.
  - d. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under VI. A.3., above.
  - e. A career and technical education course may fulfill a mathematics credit or arts requirement under Section VI.A.2. or VI.A.5., above.
  - f. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under VI.A.2., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
  - e. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a science or mathematics credit requirement under VI.A.2. or VI.B.3., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in science or mathematics.
- B. Students beginning 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2022-23 school year, must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation (*one (1) course credit = 1 semester*):
- 1. *Eight* credits (4 years) of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
  - 2. *Six* credits (3 years) of mathematics, an advanced algebra credit or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
  - 3. *Six* credits (3 years) of science, including one credit to satisfy all the earth and space science standards for grades 9 through 12, one credit to satisfy all the life science standards for grades 9 through 12, and one credit to satisfy all the chemistry and physics standards for grades 9 through 12;
  - 4. *Seven* credits (3.5 years) of social studies, including credit for a course in government and citizenship in either grade 11 or 12 for students beginning 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 section [120B.021, 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;

5. *Two* credits in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts;
6. *One* Credit sufficient to satisfy the state standards in physical education;
7. *One* Credit sufficient to satisfy the state standards in health;
8. *One* credit of career and technical education, and
9. A minimum of *eighteen* elective course credits.

Credit equivalencies

- a. A one credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture, food, and natural resources education or business department may fulfill a one credit in social studies under VI.B.4., above, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
- b. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under VI.B.3. ,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.
- c. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under VI.B.3. , above, if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the school district.
- d. 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 VI.B.3., above.
- e. A career and technical education course may fulfill a mathematics credit or arts requirement under Section VI.B.2. or VI.B.5., above.
- f. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under VI.B.2., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
- g. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a science or mathematics credit requirement under VI.B.2. or VI.B.3., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in science or mathematics.



- h. 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.
- C. Students beginning 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2017-18 school year, must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation (*one (1) course credit = 1 semester*):
  1. *Eight* credits (4 years) of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
  2. *Six* credits (3 years) of mathematics, including an algebra II credit or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics.
  3. *Six* credits (3 years) of science, including (a) one credit of biology, (b) one credit of chemistry or physics; and (c) 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;
  4. *Seven* credits (3.5 years) of social studies, 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.
  5. *Two* credits in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts;
  6. *One* credit of health *and* one credit of physical education;
  7. *One* credit of career and technical education, and
  8. A minimum of *eighteen* elective course credits.

Credit equivalencies

- a. A one credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture, food, and natural resources education or business department may fulfill a one credit in social studies under VI.C.4., above, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
- b. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under VI.C.3. ,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.



- c. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under VI.C.3. , 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.
- d. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under VI.C.3., above.
- e. A career and technical education course may fulfill a mathematics credit or arts requirement under Section VI.C.2. or C.5., above.
- f. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under VI.C.2., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
- g. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a science or mathematics credit requirement under VI.C.2. or VI.C.3., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in science or mathematics.

## VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

A. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required and elective standards, in accordance with the standards adopted by the school district:

1. School District Standards, Health (K-12);

B. Academic standards in health, world languages, and career and technical education will be reviewed 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 **Academic 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. 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.

**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; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.13 (Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.091 (Concurrent Enrollment Program Aid)
- Minn. Stat. § 124F.08 (Education and Employment Transitions Partnerships)



Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)

Minn. Rules Parts ~~3501.075000-3501.0745~~ (Academic Standards for Mathematics)

Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)

Minn. Rules Parts ~~3501.0900~~-3501.0955 (Academic **Science** Standards for **Kindergarten through Grade 12 in Science**)

Minn. Rules Parts ~~3501.135000-3501.1345~~ (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 IEP, Section 504 Plan, and LEP Students)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)

**Resources:**

Minnesota House of Representatives: [Minnesota's Graduation Requirements \(November 2025\)](#) (accessed 01/29/26)