

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 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" is equivalent to a student's successful completion of one-half of an academic year of study (i.e., one quarter-length term in the four-period block schedule) 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.
- C. "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.
- 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, health and the arts., (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health.~~
- 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. ~~TEST ADMINISTRATOR~~ DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

~~The Director of Learning Analytics, Data, and Reporting shall name the school district test administrator or as designated by the Superintendent.~~ **The District Assessment Coordinator shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the Superintendent annually for approval.**

V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

~~For Students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2012-13 school year and later, 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. Encouragement to participate on a nationally normed college entrance exam in grade 11 or grade 12;
- B. Achievement and career and college readiness tests in mathematics, reading and writing. The tests must have 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. In addition, the tests must ensure that the foundational knowledge and skills for student's successful performance in postsecondary employment or education and articulated series of possible targeted interventions are clearly identified and satisfy Minnesota's post-secondary admission requirements. To the extent available, the tests should:
 - 1. Monitor students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analyze students' progress and performance levels, identifying students' academic strengths and diagnosing areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and
 - 2. Based on analysis of students' progress and performance data, determine student's learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the students; and
- C. Consistent with this paragraph and Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.125 ~~(see Policy 604, Section H.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.
- D. 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.

- E. 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.
- F. 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 must be 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.
- G. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

~~For~~ Students to graduate in the 2024-2025 school year and later they must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation:

- A. Eight credits of language arts; sufficient to satisfy all academic standards English Language arts;
- B. Six credits of mathematics, including an Algebra II credit or its equivalent, geometry, statistics and probability, or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy the academic standards in mathematics. Students in the graduation class of 2015 and beyond must complete algebra 1 credit by the end of the 8th grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics.
- C. Six credits of science, including at least: (a) one credit of biology; (b) one credit of chemistry or physics; and 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;
- D. Eight credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics, or three credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, and world history, and one-half credit of economics.

- E. Two credits in the arts; to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in arts; and
- F. Physical Education, 2 credits
- G. Health, 1 credit
- H. Computer Related Course (For students to graduate in the school years of 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-~~2067~~²⁰²⁷), 1 credit
- I. Personal Finance (For students to graduate in the school year of 2027-2028 school year and later), 1 credit (Earned in grades 10-12)
- J. Business Related Course (Cannot be met by a course that is also fulfilling the personal finance requirement), 1 credit
- K. World Languages (K-12), 2 credits
- L. A minimum of 19 elective course credits.

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must satisfactorily complete the currently adopted Minnesota Academic 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, Arts K-12; and
 - 6. Minnesota Academic Physical Education K-12
- B. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit under VI. B or VI. E, above.
- C. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under VI.A.2., if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics

- D. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except the very few students with extreme cognitive or physical impairment 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.
- E. 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.

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 or designee.

IX. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FOR VETERANS

A. Diploma

The school district must, upon a request under Paragraph B. below issue a high school diploma to a veteran as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 197.447 who was unable to complete their high school education for reasons related or unrelated to their military service, and who served:

- 1. during the Korean Conflict; or
- 2. during the Vietnam War.

B. Request

A veteran may request a diploma on their own behalf, or a family member may make a posthumous request on behalf of a deceased veteran or service member. The high school diploma is awarded based on the veteran's knowledge and experience gained

while in service, or the veteran's other relevant lived experience. The school district may require the veteran or veteran's requestor to provide evidence that the veteran was a Minnesota resident.

C. No Report Required

The school district is not required to report on diplomas issued under Minnesota Statutes, section 127A.135.

D. Assistance

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and county veteran service officers may provide assistance to districts fulfilling diploma requests, including but not limited to verification of discharge paperwork.

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