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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 must satisfactorily complete, as determined by the school district, all course 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.

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. “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.
- C. “Individualized Education Program” or “IEP” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- D. “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.
- E. “GRAD” means the graduation-required assessment for diploma that measures the reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency of high school students.

IV. TEST ADMINISTRATOR

The Secondary Principal 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. For students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year, only Minnesota basic skills tests in reading, mathematics, and writing shall fulfill students' basic skills testing requirements for a passing state notation. The passing scores of basic skills tests in reading and mathematics are the equivalent of 75 percent correct for students entering grade 9 as based on the first uniform test administered in February 1998. Students who have not successfully passed a basic skills test by the end of the 2011-2012 school year must pass the GRAD as set forth in Section V.B. or V.C., except that, for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years only, these students must satisfy the state's graduation test requirement for math by complying with Sections V.C.1. and V.C.3.
- B. For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year and later, only the following options shall fulfill students' state graduation test requirements:
 - 1. For reading and mathematics:
 - a. obtaining an achievement level equivalent to or greater than proficient as determined through a standard setting process on the Minnesota comprehensive assessments in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics or achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting process on the GRAD in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics or subsequent retests;
 - b. achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting process on the state-identified language proficiency test in reading and the mathematics test for English language learners or the GRAD equivalent of those assessments for students designated as English language learners;
 - c. achieving an individual passing score on the GRAD as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an IEP or 504 plan;
 - d. obtaining an achievement level equivalent to or greater than proficient as determined through a standard setting process on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics for students with an IEP; or
 - e. achieving an individual passing score on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an IEP; and
 - 2. For writing:
 - a. achieving a passing score on the GRAD;
 - b. achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting

process on the state-identified language proficiency test in writing for students designated as English language learners;

- c. achieving an individual passing score on the GRAD as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an IEP or 504 plan; or
 - d. achieving an individual passing score on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an IEP.
- C. Students enrolled in grade 8 in any school year from the 2005-2006 school year to the 2009-2010 school year who do not pass the mathematics GRAD under Section V.B. above are eligible to receive a high school diploma if they:
1. Complete with a passing score or grade all state and local coursework and credits required for graduation by the school board granting the students their diploma;
 2. Participate in district-prescribed academic remediation in mathematics; and
 3. Fully participate in at least two retests of the mathematics GRAD test or until they pass the mathematics GRAD test, whichever comes first.
- D. Students beginning ninth grade in the 2011-2012 school year and later must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation:
1. Four credits of language arts;
 2. Three credits of mathematics, encompassing at least algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability sufficient to satisfy the academic standard. Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, students must satisfactorily complete an algebra I credit by the end of eighth grade. Students scheduled to graduate in the 2014-2015 school year or later must satisfactorily complete an algebra II credit or its equivalent;
 3. Three credits of science, including at least: (a) one credit in biology; (b) one chemistry or physics credit or a career and technical education credit that meets standards underlying the chemistry, physics, or biology credit or a combination of those standards approved by the school district; and (c) meeting biology standards under Section V.D.3.(b) does not meet the biology requirement under Section V.D.3.(a);
 4. Three and one-half 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 taught in a school's social studies, agriculture education, or business department;

5. One credit in the arts; and
 6. A minimum of seven elective course credits.
 7. An agriculture science course may fulfill a credit requirement other than the specified science credit in biology under Section V.D.3. above.
 8. A career and technical education course may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement or a science requirement other than the specified science credit in biology under Section V.D.2., V.D.3., or V.D.5. above.
- E. 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 and Physical Education (K-12);
 2. School District Standards, Vocational and Technical Education (K-12); and
 3. School District Standards, World Languages (K-12).
- F. Academic standards in health, world languages, and vocational and technical education will be reviewed in accordance with the curriculum review cycle.
- G. All students (including students on an IEP with alternative standards, a Section 504 accommodation plan, or students attending an alternative learning center) 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, 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, Arts K-12;

VI. STUDENTS IN UNIQUE SITUATIONS

In order to graduate from the school district, all students must fulfill the graduation test

requirements in reading, mathematics, and writing established by Minn. Stat. §§ 120B.02 and 120B.30 as set forth in Sections V.A., V.B., and V.C. above, with the following exceptions:

- A. ELL students are required to pass the GRAD only if they have been enrolled in any Minnesota school for at least four consecutive years. An ELL student who first enrolls in a Minnesota school in grade 9 or above and who completes the coursework and any other state and district requirements to graduate within a four-year period is not required to pass the GRAD;
- B. Shared-time students are not required to pass the GRAD unless they intend to graduate from the school district.
- C. Students who have transferred from another state will not be required to pass the GRAD if they passed graduation examinations in other states with examinations acceptable to MDE.
- D. Students with IEPs or 504 accommodation plans will be tested and required to pass the GRAD as specified in the students' IEPs or 504 accommodation plans.

VII. 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.

VIII. NOTICE

Within 30 working days of a student's entry into grade 9 or transfer into the district during or after grade 9, the school district will notify students and their parents of the school district's graduation requirements and the grade in which the student will have the first opportunity to take a GRAD. The school district also will provide written notice of the GRAD results to parents and the student no later than 60 days after the school district receives the results and will provide written notice of the basic requirements test results no later than 90 days after the school district receives the results. The school district also will provide notice of remediation and/or additional testing opportunities and/or accommodations.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations 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.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180 (Graduation Standards – Mathematics and Reading)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0200-3501.0290 (Graduation Standards – Written Composition)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505-3501.0655 (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 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation-Required Assessment for Diploma)
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 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)