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. 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 an academic year 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 will 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.

F. "GRAD" means the graduation-required assessment for diploma that measures

the reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency of high school students.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

Ray Lutovsky 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 ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

A. Students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2009-2010 school year are eligible to be assessed under:

1. The graduation-required assessment for diploma (GRAD) in reading, mathematics, or writing under Minn. Stat. § 120B.30, Subd. 1(c)(1) and (2) and Subd. 1(d) (2012) as follows:

a. for reading and mathematics:

i. 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;

ii. 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;

iii. achieving an individual passing score on the GRAD as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 (504) plan;

iv. 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

v. 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

b. for writing:

i. achieving a passing score on the GRAD;

ii. 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;

iii. achieving an individual passing score on the GRAD as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an IEP or 504 plan; or

iv. 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.1., above, are eligible to receive a high school diploma if they:

i. 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;

ii. participate in district-prescribed academic remediation in mathematics; and

iii. fully participate in at least two retests of the mathematics GRAD test or until they pass the mathematics GRAD test, whichever comes first.

2. The WorkKeys job skills assessment:

3. The Compass college placement test;

4. The ACT assessment for college admission;

5. The armed services vocational aptitude test; or

6. The school district may substitute a score from an alternative, equivalent assessment to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

B. Students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2010-2011 or 2011-2012 school year and later

are eligible to be assessed under:

1. The GRAD in reading, mathematics, or writing under Minn. Stat. § 120B.30, Subd. 1(c)(1) and (2) (2012) as follows:

   a. For reading and mathematics:

      i. 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;
      ii. 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;
      iii. Achieving an individual passing score on the GRAD as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an IEP or 504 plan;
      iv. 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
      v. 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

   b. For writing:

      i. Achieving a passing score on the GRAD;
      ii. 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;
      iii. Achieving an individual passing score on the GRAD as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an IEP or 504 plan; or
      iv. Achieving an individual passing score on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an IEP.

2. The WorkKeys job skills assessment;

3. The Compass college placement test;

4. The ACT assessment for college admission;

5. The armed services vocational aptitude test; or

6. The school district may substitute a score from an alternative, equivalent assessment to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

C. For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 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:

1. An opportunity to participate on a nationally normed college entrance exam in grade 11 or grade 12;

2. 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 students' successful performance in postsecondary employment or education and articulated series of possible targeted interventions are clearly identified and satisfy Minnesota's postsecondary admission requirements. To the extent available, the tests should:

   a. 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
   b. Based on analysis of students' progress and performance data, determine students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student; and

3. Consistent with this paragraph and Minn. Stat. § 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 2012-2013 school year and later must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level credits for graduation:

1. Four credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;

2. Three credits of mathematics, including an algebra II credit or its equivalent, geometry, statistics and probability, or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics.

3. Students in the graduation class of 2015 and beyond must complete an algebra I credit by the end of 8th grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics.

4. Three credits of science, including at least: (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;

5. Four credits 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;

6.. One credit of physical education, and one-half credit of health;

7. One credit in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts; and

8. A minimum of seven and one-half elective course credits, including at least one credit in the arts.

9. Credit equivalencies

a. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture education or business department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies under VI.A.5., 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.4., 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. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under VI.A.4., 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. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under VI.A.4., above.

c. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under VI.A.2. or VI.A.6., above.

d. 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.A.4., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in science or mathematics.

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

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

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

2. School District Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12); and

3. School District Standards, World Languages (K-12).

B. Academic standards in health, physical education, world languages, and vocational 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 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, 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 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 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation-Required Assessment for Diploma)(repealed Minn. L. 2013, Ch. 116, Art. 2, § 22)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
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 IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)