

Adopted: May 19, 1997

District 77 Policy 628

Revised: June 15, 1998

September 2, 2008

May 18, 2015

October 19, 1998

December 21, 2009

November 20, 2017

September 4, 2001

October 18, 2010

June 17, 2002

August 8, 2011

October 6, 2003

February 21, 2012

March 7, 2005

December 4, 2012

April 3, 2006

July 8, 2013

March 13, 2007

August 11, 2014

628 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 9 in the 2012-2013 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 complete graduation examinations, as required, in order to graduate. For students entering grade 9 in the 2013-2014 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 on a nationally normed college entrance exam. 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 must be made in the school environment to address the needs

of an individual student with disabilities.

- D. “Individualized Education Plan,” or “IEP,” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- E. “English Language Learner” 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.

IV. TEST ADMINISTRATOR

The Assessment Coordinator shall be named the school district test administrator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations for implementing changes in accountability assessments to the school board for approval when appropriate.

V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Students need to meet assessment requirements in math, reading, and writing by attaining proficiency on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, another state determined assessment, or a readiness assessment determined by the school district.

- A. For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2013-2014 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 options which include the following:
 - 1. demonstrate understanding of required academic standards on a nationally normed college entrance exam in 11th grade;
 - 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.E.*), 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.

VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All high school students need to complete the following course credits to earn a high school diploma:

- 24 Course Credits
- 4 credits English/Language Arts
- 3 credits Mathematics
- 3 credits Science
- 4 credits Social Studies
- 1.5 credits Physical Education

.5 credit Health
1 credit Creative or Performing Arts
7 credits of Electives

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, world languages, and vocational and technical education will be reviewed as part of the curricular cycle.*
- * 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. 120.80, upon meeting the following conditions:

- A. All course, credit, and state graduation assessment 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.
- 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.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.128 (Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) Program)
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: District 77 Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
District 77 Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
District 77 Policy 619.1 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)

District 77 Policy 619.2 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications,
and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans and LEP Students)
District 77 Policy 625 (School District System Accountability)