INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 283

SECTION/FI	LE613	DATE OF ADOPTION <u>10/22/1980</u>
		REVISED <u>2/25/86; 2/26/96; 3/10/97;</u>
		5/26/98; 10/10/02; 11/13/06
TITLE	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

It is the policy of the school district that all students must pass the Minnesota Graduation Basic Standards tests or the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments Second Edition (MCA-II's) per state requirements or higher guidelines and must satisfactorily complete, as determined by the school district, all course credit requirements and graduation standards, as established by the school board, in order to graduate.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Course 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.
- B. "Department" means the Department of Education.
- C. "Credit" means a unit measuring education achievement based on successfully completing the requirements of a given course of study
- D. "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.
- E. "Individualized Education Program," or "IEP," means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- F. "Limited English Proficient" or "LEP" 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

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment 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. All students must satisfactorily complete, as determined by the school district, either the basic skills requirements for students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year or the MCA-II's for students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year.
- B. Students beginning ninth grade in the 2004-2005 school year and later must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation:
 - 1. Eight credits of language arts;
 - 2. Six credits of mathematics, encompassing at least algebra, geometry, statistics and probability sufficient to satisfy the academic standard; or make successful progress through four years of math;
 - 3. Six credits of science, including at least one credit in biology;
 - 4. Eight credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics, or seven 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 or business department;

- 5. Two credits in the arts; two credits of physical education; and 2 credits of health; and
- 6. A minimum of twelve elective course credits.
- 7. Options for meeting graduation requirements

Waivers

Students who choose to take more rigorous course work in any particular subject area may waive a requirement in that area. Reasons for waiving a requirement might include scheduling difficulties. Students must have permission of the respective Department Chair and a counselor.

Health

Students who will be taking International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement preparatory course work in 10th grade may take Health 10 in summer school instead of during the school year.

Physical Education

Students who will be taking International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement preparatory course work in 10th grade may take P.E. 10 in summer school instead of during the school year.

- C. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required Graduation Standards:
 - 1. Commencing with the 2003-2004 school year, all students entering the ninth grade must satisfactorily complete the following Minnesota Academic Standards, in accordance with the standards developed by the Department of Education:
 - a. Minnesota Academic Standards, Language Arts K-12 (2003);
 - b. Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12 (2003);
 - c. Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12 (2004);
 - d. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12 (2004); and
 - e. Minnesota Academic Standards, Arts K-12 (2003);

VI. 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.

VII. NOTICE

The school district will notify students and their parents of the school district's graduation requirements within 30 working days of a student's entry into ninth grade.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota's Students)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.024 (Graduation Requirements; Course Credits)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180 (Rules Relating to Graduation Standards - Mathematics and Reading)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0200-3501.0290 (Rules Relating to Graduation Standards - Written Composition)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505-3501.0635 (K-12 Standards)

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 (Basic Standards Testing, Accommodations, Modifications, and

Exemptions for IEP, Section 504 Accommodation, and LEP Students)

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