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MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613

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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 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. “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. “Course credit” is equivalent to a student’s successful completion of an academic trimester of study or a student’s mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district. Successful completion is determined by obtaining a grade of D- or higher in a given course. Grading scales can be found in the SSP Secondary Student Handbook.
 - 1. SSP Secondary students may only earn weighted grades in International Baccalaureate Diploma Program courses. A list of Diploma Courses with weighted grades can be found on the SSP Secondary website.
- 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 Program,” or “IEP,” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- E. “English Learner” or “EL” student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose academic success may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

The Executive Director of Educational Services is the school district's District Assessment Coordinator in charge of all test procedures.

V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Students' state graduation requirements, based on a longitudinal, systemic approach to student education and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation, include the following:
1. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, as measured against 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 and which facilitates the monitoring of students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analysis of students' progress and performance levels, identification of students' academic strengths and diagnosis of areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and determination of students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student based on analysis of students' progress and performance data; and
 2. Consistent with this paragraph and Minnesota Statutes section 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.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section and who are students grades 11 or 12 and who are identified as academically ready for a career or college are 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 to graduate from high school.

6. 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 must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation:
 1. Twelve credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
 2. Nine credits of mathematics, including three credits of algebra II or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics. Students must satisfactorily complete three credits of algebra I by the end of 8th grade, sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics.
 3. Nine credits of science, including at least three credits of biology, three credits of chemistry or physics, and three elective credits of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and all other academic standards in science.
 4. Twelve 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;
 5. One credit of physical education/health;
 6. Three credits in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state academic standards in arts; and
 7. A minimum of 65 total credits, of which 45 are required (see 1-6 above) and at least 19 elective credits.

VII. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

- A. 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, 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;
 6. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12

- B. 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).

- C. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except the very few student 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 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 and school board.

IX. NOTICE

The students and their parents are notified of the school district’s graduation requirements through the Student Handbook that is distributed and reviewed at the beginning of each school year or upon registration. Each student must sign and return the handbook agreement form indicating they have received the handbook and agree to ask questions to any policies they do not understand.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements 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 (Credits)
 Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)
 Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World’s Best Workforce)
 Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students’ Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
 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 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
 Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
 Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
 Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)
 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)