

## **601.00.2 PROCEDURE: RIGOROUS COURSE WAIVER**

The rigorous course of study waiver is an opportunity for students to be waived from specific academic standards required for graduation (Minn. Stat. § 120B.021, subd. 1(a)) through a district-developed request process from a student's parent or guardian to the school district.

The goal is to adhere to the statutory requirement for the student's comprehensive education in all of the academic content standards while also providing reasonable flexibility so that students have the opportunity to participate in International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), College in the Schools (CIS)/Concurrent Enrollment (CE), Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), career and technical education and other rigorous learning opportunities within or outside of the school curriculum. Students taking courses designated as rigorous can waive related graduation requirements. For example, taking AP Language & Composition meets ELA requirements.

Students, families and counselors must follow the process below to ensure students meet graduation requirements as they pursue rigorous course options.

1. The student meets with their school counselor to review the student's schedule and the [currently approved rigorous courses](https://www.spps.org/Page/39577) (<https://www.spps.org/Page/39577>).
2. If a requested course is not in the [rigorous course catalog](#), the counselor will provide a list of alternative courses that are pre-approved to the student.
3. If, based upon the student's interests, academic/career goals and Personal Learning Plan (PLP), the student chooses a non-approved course, a Rigorous Course Waiver Application will need to be completed to request high school credit for the course. The counselor will give the student the [Rigorous Course Waiver Application Form](#) and support them in completing the following:
  - The student must completely fill out the form with all information requested.
  - The parent/guardian must check the box and electronically sign the form consenting to the waiving of any academic standards to be waived if the application is approved.
  - The student must submit the form and notify their school counselor of the submission.
4. The Lead High School Counselor will receive an alert of the application via email, who will notify designated reviewers.
5. The Executive Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning and the Director of the Office of College and Career Readiness, or their designees, will make a determination of whether or not the application is approved within ten (10) business days of receiving the application.

6. The Executive Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning or designee will communicate the determination to the Lead High School Counselor.
7. The Lead High School Counselor will communicate the final determination to the student and the student's school counselor.
8. A determination of approval for credit requires the Lead High School Counselor to add the course to the published rigorous course catalog.
9. A determination of non-approval for credit will require the Executive Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning or designee to provide a statement of why it is not approved.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

510.00 Graduation

601.00 Educational Programming

602.00 Curriculum Development, Instruction, & Accountability

**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

MN Statute § 120B.021 REQUIRED ACADEMIC STANDARDS

**OTHER SOURCES:**

Minnesota Department of Education Guidelines:

[https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dDocName=mde074742&RevisionSelectionMethod=latest&Rendition=primary](https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=mde074742&RevisionSelectionMethod=latest&Rendition=primary)

Minneapolis Public Schools Policy: [Regulation 6207A: Procedures And Limitations: Rigorous Course Waiver](#)

Minneapolis Public Schools Course Waiver Application:

[https://guidance.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/rcw\\_application\\_process.pdf](https://guidance.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/rcw_application_process.pdf)