MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Urban Education. Global Citizens.

Ethnic Studies Requirement Policy Proposal

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Proposal

Add the following language to current Graduation Requirements Policy 5391:

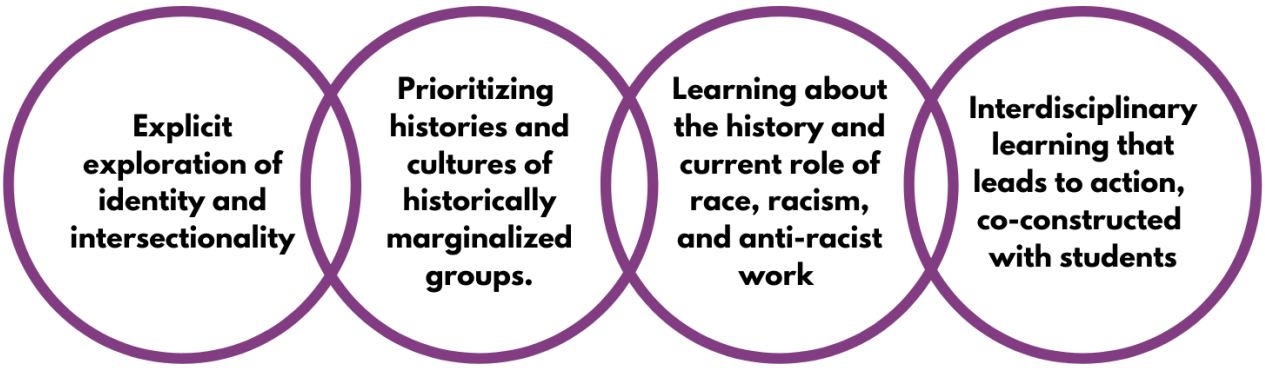
Under *Section 5 (OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS)*:

c. Ethnic Studies Course. Each student, beginning with those graduating in 2025, must earn a passing grade in an Ethnic Studies course.

Under Section 6 (DEFINITIONS):

c. "Ethnic Studies courses" are identified as such by the Teaching & Learning Department and include explicit exploration of identity and intersectionality, prioritize the history and culture of historically marginalized groups, include the history and current role of race, racism, and anti-racist work, and include interdisciplinary learning that leads to action.

Ethnic Studies in Minneapolis Public Schools is:



- **Explicit exploration of identity and intersectionality.** These courses are about personal and community reflection just as much as they are about learning new content. Part of Ethnic Studies pedagogy is to value the unique personal and cultural assets that each of us holds and see those as worthy subjects of study.
- **Prioritizing histories and cultures of historically marginalized groups.** This is more than reading one book by a person of color or making sure to have a unit on redlining in a geography or economics class. The entire course is rooted in the stories historically left out of school learning and explicitly teaches the frameworks and vocabulary for critical analysis of power in society.
- **Learning about history and current role of race, racism, and anti-racist work.** Just like other disciplines have key vocabulary and frameworks, Ethnic studies does too. Examples: critical race theory, anti-racism, privilege, intersectionality.
- **Interdisciplinary learning that leads to action, co-constructed with students.** Ethnic Studies pedagogy is student-centered. Examples used, projects completed, and ways of learning should be based on the students. Typical pedagogy include oral histories, family interviews, youth participatory action research, engaging with community experts, and students having a role in policies and curriculum decisions for the course.

Current Ethnic Studies Courses Available in MPS (each is 1 semester, or .5 credits)

- African American Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Chicanx/Latinx Studies
- First Nations Studies
- Hmong Studies
- Somali Studies
- Race & Identity Studies

Timeline for Implementation

Fall 2020	• Henry and FAIR have all students in Ethnic Studies courses for 2020-21. • Remaining high schools decide on how the Ethnic Studies requirement will be met beginning SY21-22 and they design their schedule and course registration materials to accommodate this.
Spring 2021	• All high schools schedule students into Ethnic Studies courses for SY21-22 based on where the course best fits their school's 4-year sequence.
Fall 2021	• All high schools have a 4-year sequence in place so that every student takes a minimum of one Ethnic Studies course before they graduate. • The new requirement begins with the class of 2025, who are 9th graders in Fall 2021.

FAQs

Q: Can an Ethnic Studies course replace a required Social Studies course?
A: No. Given the current Minnesota Department of Education K-12 Social Studies Standards, Ethnic Studies alone cannot replace a required Social Studies course. See Appendix C for Social Studies graduation requirements.

Q: Will students be placed in the courses based on their perceived racial identity?
A: No. All students are welcome and encouraged to take any of the courses on offer at their school.

Q: Is a Social Studies license required to teach an Ethnic Studies course?
A: No. A teaching license for any area in grades 6-12 is sufficient, provided other expectations are met for teaching the course(s).

Q: Will a student taking an Ethnic Studies course also be able to take a variety of other electives?
A: Yes! This policy change is for a .5 credit course, and students will still have plenty of room to take arts, CTE, languages, or other electives of their choice. Please see sample schedules in Appendix E.

Q: Does MPS have any history of requiring courses beyond what the Minnesota Department of Education requires?
A: Yes. MPs currently requires all students to earn .5 credits in Heath and .5 credits in Physical Education. The Minnesota Department of Education does not require these as stand-alone courses.

Q: What other Minnesota school districts have an Ethnic studies requirement?
A: St. Paul Public Schools is in the process of adding this requirement.

APPENDIX A

Current Status of Ethnic Studies at Each High School

All students take an Ethnic Studies course	Ethnic Studies course built into scope and sequence, so the vast majority of students take a course	Ethnic Studies courses offered as an elective	Ethnic Studies not currently offered as a course
Henry FAIR	Edison Heritage North	Roosevelt South Southwest Washburn	Wellstone Longfellow Harrison MACC Stadium View
Changes needed with this policy: None	**Changes needed with this policy:** Schools need to identify where the Ethnic Studies course requirement will live within their 4-year sequence and take steps in 2020-21 to prepare. Each school is at a slightly different place in terms of what changes would be needed.		

APPENDIX B

SECTION 1: AMENDMENT "Policy 5391: Graduation Requirements" of the Minneapolis Public Schools Policies & Regulations is hereby amended as follows:

A M E N D M E N T

Policy 5391: Graduation Requirements

1. PURPOSE

This policy is to establish the requirements for graduation from Minneapolis Public Schools in compliance with Minnesota law and statewide graduation standards established thereby.

2. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

All students must complete the following requirements in order to earn a diploma for graduation from a Minneapolis Public High School.

4. CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

a. Required Credits. A minimum of twenty one and a half (21.5) year-long credits is required for graduation. These credits include:

i. Four (4) year-long credits in Language Arts.

ii. Three and a half (3.5) year-long credits in Social Studies encompassing

(1) United States history,
(2) human geography,
(3) world history, and
(4) government and citizenship, and
(5) economics. Economics courses may be taught through the social studies department or the business department.

iii. Three (3) year-long credits in Mathematics encompassing, at a minimum:

(1) One (1) year-long credit in geometry
(2) One (1) year-long credit in algebra II or statistics and probability
(3) Completion of an Algebra I course credit while enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall earn an elective credit only.

iv. Three (3) year-long credits in Science, encompassing at a minimum:

(1) One (1) year-long credit in biology; and
(2) One (1) year-long credit in either chemistry or physics.

v. One (1) year-long credit in the arts;

vi. One half (0.5) year-long credit in Physical Education;

vii. One half (0.5) year-long credit in Health;

viii. Six (6) year-long elective credits.

b. Career and Technical Education Courses. The Superintendent may designate certain career and technical education courses that meet the same academic standards to satisfy the credit requirements of the science, mathematics or arts requirements established above.

5. OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

a. Testing. Students must meet state testing requirements.

b. Personal Learning Plan. Each student must develop a plan for smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment and meet yearly milestones established in that plan.

c. Ethnic Studies Course. Each student, beginning with those graduating in 2025, must earn a passing grade in an Ethnic Studies course.

6. DEFINITIONS

a. “year-long credit” is the equivalent of the successful completion of an academic year of study or student mastery of applicable state standards.

b. “Personal Learning Plan” is the plan using the career and college exploration and decision assisting curriculum framework used by Minneapolis PublicSchools.

c. "Ethnic Studies courses" are identified as such by the Teaching & Learning Department and include explicit exploration of identity and intersectionality, prioritize the history and culture of historically marginalized groups, include the history and current role of race, racism, and anti-racist work, and include interdisicplinary learning that leads to action.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

a. The Superintendent may develop procedures and policies to implement this policy.

Original Adoption:
01/07/1974

Revision Dates:
04/08/1980, 06/12/1984, 08/13/1985, 07/15/1986, 09/26/1989, 06/30/1998, 6/26/2007, 11/10/2009, 01/13/2015

Legal References:

- 20 U.S.C. § 6301, et seq. (No Child Left Behind Act)
- Minn. Stat. §120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota’s Students)
- Minn. Stat. §120B.023 (Benchmarks)
- Minn. Stat. §120B.024 (Graduation Requirements; Course Credits)
- Minn. Stat. §120B.11(School District Process)
- Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505 – 3501.0635 (K-12 Standards)

MPS Policy Cross References:

- Policy 6273 (Local Standards and Assessments)
- Policy 6274 (State Required Assessments)
- Regulation 5391 A (Granting Credits)
- Regulation 5391 B (Graduation Requirements for Transfer Students)

Appendix C

Visual of where Ethnic Studies fits within MPS graduation requirements

Period	9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
1	ELA 1.0 credits	ELA 1.0 credits	ELA 1.0 credits	ELA 1.0 credits
2	US History 1.0 credits	Human Geography .5 credits Ethnic Studies .5 credits	World History 1.0 credits	Government .5 credits Economics .5 credits
3	Math 1.0 credits	Math 1.0 credits	Math 1.0 credits	Art 1.0 credits
4	Science 1.0 credits	Science 1.0 credits	Science 1.0 credits	Elective credit 1.0 credits
5	PE .5 credits Health .5 credits	Elective credit 1.0 credits	Elective credit 1.0 credits	Elective credit 1.0 credits
6	Elective credit 1.0 credits	Elective credit 1.0 credits	Elective credit 1.0 credits	Elective credit 1.0 credits

Appendix D

Sample Student Schedules

Student #1 4 years of arts	**9th grade** 1. English 9 2. AP Human Geography 3. Geometry 4. Physical Science 5. Ethnic Studies/ Health 6. Choir	**10th grade** 1. AP Lit & Comp 2. AP US History 3. Adv Algebra 4. Biology 5. Arabic 2 6. Choir	**11th grade** 1. English 11 2. World History 3. IB Math 4. Chemistry 5. Arabic 3 6. Choir	**12th grade** 1. English 12 2. Econ/Government 3. AP Calculus 4. Fitness for Life/Beginning Theater 5. Arabic 4 6. Choir
Student #2 Strong CTE Interest	**9th grade** 1. English 9 2. AP Human Geography 3. Intermediate Algebra 4. Physical Science 5. Drone Technology/ Adobe Photoshop 6. Fitness for Life/Health	**10th grade** 1. English 10 2. AP US History 3. Geometry 4. Biology 5. Spanish 1 6. Ethnic Studies/ Studio Art	**11th grade** 1. IB SL Literature and Performance Year 1 2. World History 3. Advanced Algebra 4. Chemistry 5. Spanish 2 6. Intro to Engineering Design PLTW	**12th grade** 1. IB SL Literature and Performance Year 2 2. Econ/Government 3. AP Statistics 4. Physics 5. Civil Engineering & Architecture 6. Beginning Guitar/Weight Training
Student #3 4 years of AVID + IB Medallion	**9th Grade** 1. English 9 2. US History 3. Geometry 4. Physical Science 5. Spanish 1 6. FFL/Health 7. AVID 9	**10th Grade** 1. English 10 2. Ethnic Studies/ Geography 3. Adv Algebra 4. Biology 5. Spanish 2 6. Studio Art/Piano 7. AVID 10	**11th Grade** 1. IB English Year 1 2. Global Politics Y1 3. IB Math Year 1 4. IB Spanish Year 1 5. Chemistry 6. TOK Year 1 7. AVID 11	**12th Grade** 1. IB English Year 2 2. World History 3. IB Math Year 2 4. IB Spanish Year 2 5. Physics 6. TOK Year 2 7. AVID 12
Student #4 IB Diploma Candidate	**9th Grade** 1. English 9 2. US History 3. Int Algebra 4. Physical Sci 5. Chinese 1 6. FFL/Health 7. Studio Art/Guitar	**10th Grade** 1. English 10 2. Ethnic Studies/ Geography 3. Geometry 4. Biology 5. Chinese 2 6. Elective choices 7. Elective choices	**11th Grade** 1. IB English Year 1 2. Global Politics Y1 3. Adv Algebra 4. Physics Year 1 5. IB Chinese Year 1 6. IB Visual Art Year 1 7. TOK Year 1	**12th Grade** 1. IB English Year 1 2. Global Politics Y2 3. IB Math 4. IB Physics Year 2 5. IB Chinese Year 2 6. IB Visual Art Year 2 7. TOK Year 2