

Diploma Requirements for Graduating Classes 2012 & 2013

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare for Board approval a plan consisting of district graduation requirements. Students shall receive a Matanuska-Susitna Borough diploma only after successfully completing all sections of an approved graduation qualifying examination and acquiring the minimum of 22 credits in the following required and elective subjects:

Health5 credit

Language Arts4 credits

English 1 1 credit

English 2 1 credit

English Electives 2 credits

Mathematics2 credits

Algebra 1 credit from the following:

Algebra 1

Cognitive Tutor Algebra

Introduction to Algebra

Geometry 1 credit from the following:

Geometry

Informal Geometry

Physical Education (see BP 6146.2 (b) for waivers) 1 credit

Science3 credits

Physical Science 1 credit from the following:

Physical Science

Integrated Science 1

Life Science 1 credit from the following:

Biology

Integrated Science 2

Science Electives 1 credit

Social Studies3 credits

Alaska History5 credit

World History 1 credit

United States History 1 credit

U.S. Government5 credit

Electives8.5 credits

NOTES: For language arts, math, science and social studies, specific course requirements may be fulfilled by substituting a higher level of the same course (e.g. Honors Biology). For math and science, specific course requirements may also be fulfilled by substituting a course for which the required course is the prerequisite.

Diploma Requirements for Graduating Classes 2014 & 2015

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare for Board approval a plan consisting of district graduation requirements. Students shall receive a Matanuska-Susitna Borough diploma only after successfully completing all sections of an approved graduation qualifying examination and acquiring the minimum of 22 credits in the following required and elective subjects:

Health5 credit

Language Arts4 credits

English 1 1 credit

English 2 1 credit

English Electives 2 credits

Mathematics3 credits

Algebra 1 credit from the following:

Algebra 1

Cognitive Tutor Algebra

Introduction to Algebra

Geometry 1 credit from the following:

Geometry

Informal Geometry

Math Electives 1 credit

Physical Education (see BP 6146.2 (b) for waivers) 1 credit

Science3 credits

Physical Science 1 credit from the following:

Physical Science

Integrated Science 1

Life Science 1 credit from the following:

Biology

Integrated Science 2

Science Electives 1 credit

Social Studies3 credits

Alaska History5 credit

World History 1 credit

United States History 1 credit

U.S. Government5 credit

Electives7.5 credits

NOTES: For language arts, math, science and social studies, specific course requirements may be fulfilled by substituting a higher level of the same course (e.g. Honors Biology). For math and science, specific course requirements may also be fulfilled by substituting a course for which the required course is the prerequisite.

Diploma Requirements for Graduating Classes 2016+

The Chief School Administrator/Superintendent or designee shall prepare for Board approval a plan consisting of district graduation requirements. Students shall receive a Matanuska-Susitna Borough diploma only after successfully completing all sections of an approved graduation qualifying examination and acquiring the minimum of 22.5 credits in the following required and elective subjects:

Health5 credits
Language Arts	4 credits
English 1.....	1 credit
English 2.....	1 credit
English Electives.....	2 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Algebra.....	1 credit from the following:
Algebra 1	
Introduction to Algebra	
Geometry.....	1 credit from the following:
Geometry	
Informal Geometry	
Math Electives.....	1 credit
Physical Education (see BP 6146.2 (b) for waivers)	1 credit
Science	3 credits
Physical Science	1 credit from the following:
Physical Science	
Integrated Science 1	
Life Science	1 credit from the following:
Biology	
Integrated Science 2	
Science Electives.....	1 credit
Social Studies	3.5 credits
Civics5 credit
Alaska History.....	.5 credit
World History.....	1 credit
United States History.....	1 credit
U.S. Government5 credit

Electives **7.5 credits**

NOTES: For language arts, math, science and social studies, specific course requirements may be fulfilled by substituting a higher level of the same course (e.g. Honors Biology). For math and science, specific course requirements may also be fulfilled by substituting a course for which the required course is the prerequisite.

High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE)

Certificate of Achievement

A student who has met all graduation requirements of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District but has not passed all sections of the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam shall be awarded a Certificate of Achievement.

High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Retesting for Individuals Who Have a Certificate of Achievement

Individuals who have earned a Certificate of Achievement from an Alaska school district may take the section(s) of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) they have not passed without charge. Tests can only be administered during those times designated by the state for testing. Generally, individuals must submit a retesting request in writing to the Department of Instruction no less than 21 days before the first day of testing. Individuals needing accommodations must make their request no less than three months in advance of testing. Accommodations must be specified in the written request.

Individuals with Certificates of Achievement who pass all sections of the HSGQE will qualify for a high school diploma. The District will issue such diplomas only to students who received a Certificate of Achievement from Mat-Su Schools. Students who received a Certificate of Achievement elsewhere should contact their former districts to receive a high school diploma. Prior to retesting, individuals are encouraged to participate in the District's HSGQE help sessions.

Grades and Evaluation of Student Achievement (AR 5121)

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for implementing a uniform system of measuring, recording, and reporting the achievements of individual students. Principals shall ensure that student grades conform to this system. The grading system will ensure that the student, teacher, and the parents can assess progress toward the educational goals of a particular course of study. The grading system shall be reviewed bi-annually, in consultation with professional staff members, parents, and students.

Students shall be informed in writing at the onset of any course of study of the behaviors and achievements that are expected of them. They shall be kept informed of their progress during the course of study.

Whenever it becomes evident to a teacher that a student is in danger of falling below average, the teacher shall arrange a conference with the student's parent/guardian or send the parent/guardian a written notice.

Teachers are encouraged to allow for trends in the quality of student work. When a student finishes a grading period doing high quality work which requires skills acquired throughout the grading period, low grades at the beginning of the grading period need not diminish the appropriate evaluation of the student's achievement. Similarly, high grades at the beginning need not compensate for a downward trend in achievement.

A grade report to students and parents is required on a quarterly basis. These grade reports should go to the students within six working days after the end of the quarter. Final decision on any contested grade will be the responsibility of the principal.

Grading practices will be adopted on a district basis rather than a classroom or school basis.

In order to be in compliance with Alaska State Regulation 4 AAC 07.060 Student records:

- (a) Each district shall maintain for each student a cumulative record consisting at a minimum, of the following:
 - (1) Subjects student has taken
 - (2) Grades earned and an explanation of the grading system used
 - (3) Units of credit earned

Grades

Secondary grades shall be reported for each semester as follows:

A	(90-100%)	Outstanding Achievement	4.0 grade points
B	(80-89%)	Above Average Achievement	3.0 grade points
C	(70-79%)	Average Achievement	2.0 grade points
D	(60-69%)	Below Average Achievement	1.0 grade points
F	(0-59%)	Little or No Achievement	0 grade points
I	see below	Incomplete	0 grade points
NC	see below	No Credit	0 grade points
NCP	see below	No Credit Pass	
NG	see below	No Grade	
WD	see below	Withdrawal	

I Incomplete

- * Indicates that course requirements were not completed by the student.
- * An “I” must be made up within two weeks of the date when grades are issued to parents.
- * If course work is not completed within the two week time period, the grade will turn into an NC.

NC No Credit

- * Used only in two circumstances:
 - 1) Student drops a class or is removed and has a failing grade in a class after 4 weeks have passed.
 - 2) Student does not make up an Incomplete within 2 weeks of the end of the semester.
- *Mark is used as a Semester Grade and stays on the permanent transcript.
- *Mark counts as a 0 in calculating the student’s GPA

NCP No Credit Pass

- * Used in extenuating circumstances with the approval of district administration, when a student who is passing a class drops the class through no fault of their own (e.g. medical circumstances) after 4 weeks have elapsed but prior to completion. An NCP does not count in determining class rank, honors lists, or grade point average (GPA).

NG No Grade

- * May be assigned to a student who has not been enrolled in class for 20 days or more total for the quarter.
- * Mark is to be used in the quarterly position—it is not to be used as a semester grade.
- * Mark does not figure into student grade point average (GPA).

WD Withdrawal

- *May be assigned to a student who has withdrawn from the district but was not enrolled in the semester long enough to earn credit.

Additional marking symbols, such as plus and minus, may be used on middle school report cards, however, they will *not* be permissible as semester grades.

Pass/Fail Grading

With IEP team approval, students may elect to earn a “Pass” or “Fail” grade instead of an A-F grade in all courses taken in the Special Education Program.

Students who receive a “Pass” grade will acquire the appropriate semester units of credit for the course, and the grade will not be counted in determining class rank or honors list. Students who receive a “Fail” grade will not receive credit for taking the course.

Students shall be graded Pass/Fail for classes in which they serve as student aides and for community service unless predetermined goals and objectives related to specific subject knowledge are on file and have been approved by the principal or designee.

Repeated Course – (Replacing Grades)

With the approval of the principal or designee, a student may repeat a course in order to raise his/her grade. The student shall only receive credit for taking the course once. The highest grade received will be the permanent grade on the student's transcript. All other references to the same course will be purged from the transcript.

A student may not receive double credit for the same course in district except as noted in the Program of Studies course description.

Dropping Classes

A high school student who drops a course any time during the first 4 weeks of the semester will have that course purged from the transcript. If the student drops the course or is dropped from the course after the first 4 weeks but prior to completion, the student will receive an "NC" or "NCP" on the transcript. This does not apply to students transferring out of the school.

Weighted Grades

A system of weighted grading will be applied to grades of A, B, or C earned by students enrolled in approved Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL) courses, and upper division Career and Technical Education courses. One additional quality point will be added to the weight of these approved courses for calculation of grade point averages (A=5, B=4, C=3). Student transcripts will display both standard and weighted grade point averages. *Refer to AR5121 for more detailed information.*

Awards for Student Achievement (BP5126)

The School Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for unique or exemplary achievements in academic, extracurricular or community service activities. Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, certificate or Board resolution or a public ceremony. To give recognition for students who have achieved over and above what is required to graduate from the Mat-Su Borough School District; recognition at graduation and on a student's transcript will be given according to the following designations. These designations will be determined at the end of the semester prior to graduation and be based on weighted GPAs.

1. Students who have completed graduation requirements with a cumulative GPA of 3.6 – 3.79 will be designated as Cum Laude.
2. Students who have completed graduation requirements with a cumulative GPA of 3.8 – 3.99 will be designated as Magna Cum Laude.
3. Students who have completed graduation requirements with a cumulative GPA above 3.99 will be designated as Summa Cum Laude.