SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
Independent School District 833
7362 East Point Douglas Rd S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
sowashco.org | 651-425-6300

# 620 CREDIT FOR LEARNING

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize student achievement which occurs in Post- Secondary Enrollment Options and other advanced enrichment programs. The purpose of this policy also is to recognize student achievement which occurs in other schools, in alternative learning sites, and in out-of-school experiences such as community organizations, work-based learning, and other educational activities and opportunities. The purpose of this policy also is to address the transfer of student credit from out-of- state, private, or home schools and online learning programs and to address how the school district will recognize student achievement obtained outside of the school district.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is to provide a process for awarding students credit toward graduation requirements for credits and grades students complete in other schools, post-secondary or higher education institutions, other learning environments, and online courses and programs.

## III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Accredited school" means a school that is accredited by an accrediting agency, recognized according to Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 or recognized by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

B. "Blended learning" is a form of digital learning that occurs when a student learns part time in a supervised physical setting and part time through digital delivery of instruction, or a student learns in a supervised physical setting where technology is used as a primary method to deliver instruction.

C. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of MDE.

D. "Digital learning" is learning facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of their learning and includes blended and online learning.

E. "Eligible institution" means a Minnesota public post-secondary institution, a private, nonprofit two-year trade and technical school granting associate degrees, an opportunities industrialization center accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, or a private, residential, two-year or four- year, liberal arts, degree-granting college or university located in Minnesota.

F. "Nonpublic school" is a private school or home school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with the Minnesota compulsory attendance laws.

G. “Online learning” is a form of digital learning delivered by an approved online learning provider.

H. “Online learning provider” is a school district, an intermediate school district, an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that provides online learning to students and is approved by MDE to provide online learning courses.

I. “Weighted grade” is a letter or numerical grade that is assigned a numerical advantage when calculating the grade point average.

## IV. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

A. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Minnesota Public Secondary Schools

1. The school district will accept and transfer secondary credits and grades awarded to a student from another Minnesota public secondary school upon presentation of a certified transcript from the transferring public secondary school evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.

2. Credits and grades awarded from another Minnesota public secondary school may be used to compute graduation recognition and/or eligibility for an academic letter if a student has earned at least 6 credits from the school district.

B. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Schools

1. The school district will accept secondary credits and grades awarded to a student for courses successfully completed at a public school outside of Minnesota or an accredited nonpublic school upon presentation of a certified transcript from the transferring public school in another state or nonpublic school evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.

a. When a determination is made that the content of the course aligns with school district graduation requirements, the student will be awarded commensurate credits and grades.

b. Commensurate credits and grades awarded from an accredited nonpublic school or public school in another state may be used to compute graduation recognition and/or eligibility for an academic letter if a student has earned at least 6 credits from the school district.

c. In the event the content of a course taken at an accredited nonpublic school or public school in another state does not fully align with the content of the school district’s high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements.

d. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the principal/designee, in collaboration with the district Teaching and Learning Services Department will determine whether or not to grant elective credit.

2. Students transferring from a non-accredited, nonpublic school shall receive credit from the school district upon presentation of a transcript or other documentation evidencing the course taken and grade and credit awarded.

a. Students will be required to provide copies of course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples for determination of appropriate credit. In addition, students also may be asked to provide interviews/conferences with the student and/or student's parent or guardian and/or former administrator or teacher; review of a record of the student's entire curriculum at the nonpublic school; and review of the student's complete record of academic achievement.

b. Where the school district determines that a course completed by a student at a non-accredited, nonpublic school is commensurate with school district graduation requirements, credit shall be awarded, but the grade shall be "P" (pass).

c. In the event the content of a course taken at a non-accredited, nonpublic school does not fully align with the content of the school district's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements.

d. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the principal/designee, in collaboration with the district Teaching and Learning Services Department will determine whether or not to grant elective credit.

e. Credit and grades earned from a non-accredited nonpublic school shall not be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.

## V. POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT CREDIT

A. A student who satisfactorily completes a post-secondary enrollment options course or program under Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 that has been approved as meeting the necessary requirements is not required to complete other requirements of the Minnesota Academic Standards content standards corresponding to that specific rigorous course of study.

B. Secondary credits granted to a student through a post-secondary enrollment options course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement shall be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of a student completing the Minnesota Academic Standards.

1. Course credit will be considered by the school district only upon presentation of a certified transcript from an eligible institution evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.

2. Seven quarter or four semester post-secondary credits shall equal at least one full year of high school credit. Fewer post-secondary credits may be prorated.

3. When a determination is made that the content of the post-secondary course aligns with a required course for high school graduation, the commensurate credit and grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as a course credit applied toward graduation requirements.

4. In the event the content of the post-secondary course does not fully align with the content of a high school course required for graduation but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the school district may provide elective credit and the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as an elective course credit applied toward graduation requirements.

5. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the school district will notify the Commissioner, who shall determine the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.

6. When secondary credit is granted for post-secondary credits taken by a student, the school district will record those credits on the student's transcript as credits earned at a post-secondary institution.

C. A list of the courses or programs meeting the necessary requirements may be obtained from the school district.

D. By the earlier of (1) three weeks prior to the date by which a student must register for district courses for the following school year, or (2) March 1 of each year, the school district must provide up-to-date information on the district's website and in materials that are distributed to parents and students about the program, including information about enrollment requirements and the ability to earn postsecondary credit to all pupils in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11. To assist the school district in planning, a pupil must inform the district by October 30 or May 30 of each year of the pupil's intent to enroll in postsecondary courses during the following school year academic term. A pupil is bound by notifying or not notifying the district by October 30 or May 30.

E. Postsecondary institutions must notify a pupil's school as soon as practicable if the pupil withdraws from the enrolled course. The institution must also notify the pupil's school as soon as practicable if the pupil has been absent from a course for ten consecutive days on which classes are held, based on the postsecondary institution's academic calendar, and the pupil is not receiving instruction in their home or hospital or other facility.

## VI. CREDIT FROM ONLINE LEARNING COURSES

A. Secondary credits granted to a student through an online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement shall be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of a student completing the Minnesota Academic Standards.

B. Course credit will be considered only upon official documentation from the online learning provider evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded to the student.

C. When a student provides documentation from an online learning provider, the course credit and course grade shall be recorded and counted toward graduation credit requirements for all courses or programs that meet or exceed the school district's graduation requirements in the same manner as credits are awarded for students transferring from another Minnesota public school as set forth in Section IV.A. above.

## VII. ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDIT

A. The school district will grant academic credit to a student attending an accelerated or advanced academic course offered by a higher education institution or a nonprofit public agency, other than the school district.

B. Course credit will be considered only upon official documentation from the higher education institution or nonprofit public agency that the student successfully completed the course attended and passed an examination approved by the school district.

C. When a determination is made that the content of the advanced academic course aligns with a required course for high school graduation, the commensurate credit and grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as a course credit applied toward graduation requirements.

D. In the event the content of the advanced academic course does not fully align with the content of a high school course required for graduation but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the school district may provide elective credit and the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as an elective course credit applied toward graduation requirements.

E. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the school district will notify the Commissioner and request a determination of the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.

## VIII. CREDIT FOR COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

A. Any student who satisfactorily completes a high school course shall receive secondary course credit.

B. Any high school credit earned by a student shall not be included in the calculation of GPA.

C. Any high school credit earned by a student shall be counted toward satisfaction of the graduation requirements of the district and listed on official transcripts.

D. The school district will update its website prior to the beginning of each school year with a listing of the courses for which a student may earn a high school credit.

## IX. CREDIT BY ASSESSMENT

A. MN Statutes Section 120B.021 authorizes school districts to establish and maintain a system for awarding course credit to students who demonstrate and successfully meet the academic standards of a course required for high school graduation.

B. Students may request Credit by Assessment for core content courses or World Language courses only currently being offered through an application process. A student may attempt to earn credit by assessment only once for each course. Credit by assessment will only be offered for the entire course, not a portion of any course.

C. A student may not earn more than six trimester credits per year or eight courses total toward graduation via credit by assessment.

D. Students must pass any exam with at least 80% in order to earn credit by assessment, or earn a score of "proficient" or "meets expectations" in all categories on evidence assessed using a rubric.

E. The school will update its website prior to the beginning of each school year with the Application for Credit by Assessment.

## X. WEIGHTED GRADES

A. The school district offers weighted grades for courses that are identified as more rigorous or academically challenging, and where the curricula is normed by an outside agency or organization, as follows:

1. A grade awarded in an Advanced Placement course will be multiplied by a

factor of 1.2.

2. A grade awarded in a College In the Schools/Concurrent Enrollment course will be multiplied by a factor of 1.2.

3. A grade awarded in a course taken through the Post Secondary Enrollment Option program (PSEO) will be multiplied by a factor of 1.2.

4. A grade awarded in a course taken through a International Baccalaureate program will be multiplied by a factor of 1.2.

5. A grade awarded in a course in a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) will be multiplied

by a factor of 1.2.

6. An unweighted grade awarded in an UMTYMP (University of MN Talented Youth Math Program) course will be multiplied by a factor of 1.2.

B. The school district will update its website prior to the beginning of each school year with a listing of the courses for which a student may earn a weighted grade.

C. Weighted courses will be identified on the transcript with a WGT.

## XI. PROCESS FOR AWARDING CREDIT

A. The building principal will be responsible for carrying out the process to award credits and grades pursuant to this policy. The building principal will notify students in writing of the decision as to how credits and grades will be awarded.

B. A student or the student's parent or guardian may seek reconsideration of the decision by the building principal as to credits and/or grades awarded upon request of a student or the student's parent or guardian if the request is made in writing to the superintendent within five school days of the date of the building principal's decision. The request should set forth the credit and/or grade requested and the reason(s) why credit(s)/grade(s) should be provided as requested. Any pertinent documentation in support of the request must be submitted with the request.

C. The decision of the superintendent as to the award of credits or grades shall be a final decision by the school district and shall not be appealable by the student or student's parent or guardian, with the exception of postsecondary enrollment, online learning, or advanced academic courses. If a student disputes the number of credits granted for a particular postsecondary enrollment, online learning, or advanced academic credit course, the student may appeal the school district's decision to the Commissioner of Education, whose decision shall be final.

D. At any time during the process, the building principal or superintendent may ask for course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples from a course where content of the course is in question for purposes of determining alignment with graduation requirements or the number of credits to be

granted. Students will not be provided credit until requested documentation is available for review, if requested.

**Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.14 (Advanced Academic Credit)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 (Nonpublic Education Council)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03, Subd. 9 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.095 (Online Learning Option)
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 3501.0800-3501.0815 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation-Required Assessment for Diploma) (repealed Minn. L. 2013, Ch. 116, Art. 2, § 22)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)

**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 613 (Graduation Requirements)
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)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 624 (Online Learning Options)

**POLICY ADOPTED**: March 7, 2019

**POLICY REVISED:** May 19, 2022, July 18, 2024