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District 77 Policy 628

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628 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 on a nationally normed college entrance exam. The school district must adopt graduation requirements that meet or exceed state graduation requirements established in law or rule.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Required standard” means: a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, health, and or the arts. Locally developed academic standards in health apply until statewide rules implementing statewide health standards under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.021, subdivision 3, are required to be implemented in the classroom.
- B. “Credit” means a student’s successful completion of an academic year of study or a student’s mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district.
- 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 Plan,” or “IEP,” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education services.

- E. “English Language Learner” or “EL” student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

The District Assessment Coordinator shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations for implementing changes in accountability assessments to the school board for approval when appropriate.

V. ASSESSMENT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Graduation Requirements

Students’ state graduation requirements, based on a longitudinal, systematic approach to student education and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation options which include the following:

1. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, consistent with paragraph (2) below and to the extent available, to monitor students’ continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analyze students’ progress and performance levels; identifying students’ academic strengths and diagnosing areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and, based on analysis of students’ progress and performance data, determine students’ learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student; and
2. Consistent with this paragraph and Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.125 (*see Policy 604, Section II.E.*), 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.

B. Targeted Instruction Plan

1. A students 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.

2. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.13, 124D.09, 124D.091, 124F.08, and related sections, an enrolling school or district must actively encourage a student in grade 11 or 12 who is identified as academically ready for a career or college 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 under this subdivision to graduate from high school.
 3. As appropriate, students through grade 12 must continue to participate in targeted instruction, intervention, or remediation and be encouraged to participate in courses awarding college credit to high school students.
- C. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Students must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level credits for graduation:

A. Credit Requirements

Students in the Class of 2027 and before, students must satisfy all academic standards and complete the following course credits:

- 24 Course Credits
- 4 credits English/Language Arts
- 3 credits Mathematics
- 3 credits Science
- 4 credits Social Studies
- 1.5 credits Physical Education
- 0.5 credit Health
- 1 credit Creative or Performing Arts
- 7 credits Elective

Students in the Class of 2028 and beyond, students must satisfy all academic standards and complete the following course credits:

- 24 Course Credits
- 4 credits English/Language Arts
- 3 credits Mathematics
- 3 credits Science
- 3.5 credits Social Studies
- 0.5 credit Personal Finance
- 0.5 credits Physical Education

0.5 credit Health
1 credit Creative or Performing Arts
8 credits Elective

B. Credit equivalencies

1. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agricultural, food, and natural resources education or business education program or department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
2. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required, if the credit meets the state physical science, life science, earth and space science, chemistry, or physics academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the school district. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the school district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry or physics academic standards or all of the physics academic standards prior to graduation. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit.
3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit if the credit meets the state academic standards in mathematics or art.
4. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
5. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a mathematics or science credit requirement if the credit meets the state academic standards in mathematics or science.
6. An ethnic studies course may fulfill a social studies, language arts, arts, math, or science credit if the course meets the applicable state academic standards. An ethnic studies course may fulfill an elective credit if the course meets applicable local standards or other requirements.

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards, as required by the school district:
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).
- B. Academic standards in health, world languages, and career and technical education will be reviewed as part of the curricular cycle.*
- * Reviews are required to be conducted on a periodic basis. Therefore, this time period may be changed to accommodate individual school district needs.
- C. 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, 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; and
 5. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12.
- D. State standards in the Arts K-12 are available, or school districts may choose to develop their own standards.
- E. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except the very few students 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 courses 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.
- C. The principal's decision shall be in writing and may be subject to review by the superintendent and school board.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota’s Students)
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 Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students’ Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (General Requirements; Statewide Assessment)
Minn. Stat. § 120.303 (Assessment and Graduation Requirements)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.307 (College and Career Readiness)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0660 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0660 (Academic Standards For Kindergarten through Grade 12)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.082 (Academic Arts Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (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: District 77 Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
District 77 Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
District 77 Policy 619.1 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
District 77 Policy 619.2 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans and LEP Students)
District 77 Policy 625 (School District System Accountability)