

613 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

It is the policy of the school district that all students must pass the Minnesota Graduation Basic Standards tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Written Composition as per state requirements or higher guidelines and must satisfactorily complete, as determined by the school district, all course credit requirements and graduation standards, as established by the school board, in order to graduate.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Course credit” is equivalent to 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.
- B. “Department” means the Department of Education.
- C. “Unit” means a unit measuring education achievement based on successfully completing the requirements of a given course of study.
- D. “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.
- E. “Individualized Education Program,” or “IEP,” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- F. “Limited English Proficient” or “LEP” 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. TEST ADMINISTRATOR

District Assessment Coordinator shall be named the school district test administrator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the school board annually for approval.

V. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must pass the Minnesota Graduation Basic Standards tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Written Composition as per state requirements in order to graduate;
- B. Students beginning ninth grade in the 2004-2005 school year and later must successfully complete the following high school level course credits for graduation:
 - 1. Four credits of language arts;
 - 2. Three credits of mathematics, encompassing at least algebra, geometry, statistics and probability sufficient to satisfy the academic standard;
 - 3. Three credits of science, including at least one credit in biology;
 - 4. Three and one-half credits of social studies, including at least one credit of United States history, one credit of geography, 0.5 credits of government and citizenship, 0.5 credits of world history, and 0.5 credits of economics; and
 - 5. A minimum of eight elective courses, including at least one credit in the arts.
- C. All students must satisfactorily complete the following Elective Standards, in accordance with the standards adopted by the school district:
 - 1. School District Standards, Health and Physical Education (K-12);
 - 2. School District Standards, Vocational and Technical Education (K-12);
 - 3. School District Standards, World Languages (K-12).
- D. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required Graduation Standards:
 - 1. Commencing with the 2004-2005 school year, all students entering the ninth grade must satisfactorily complete the following Minnesota Academic Standards, in accordance with the standards developed by the Department of Education:

- a. Minnesota Academic Standards, Language Arts K-12 (2003);
- b. Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12 (2003);

- c. Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12 (as adopted by the Department of Education);
 - d. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12 (as adopted by the Department of Education);
 - e. Minnesota Academic Standards, Arts K-12 (2003);
2. Students who entered the ninth grade in or before the 2002-2003 school year may elect to complete the graduation requirements in effect when they entered the ninth grade in lieu of the Minnesota Academic Standards listed above. Eligible students electing to meet the graduation requirements in effect when they entered the ninth grade must submit a written parent/guardian request on a form designated by the school district no later than [insert date].

VI. EARLY GRADUATION

Students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 upon meeting the following conditions:

- A. All course 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; and
- C. The principal's decision shall be in writing and may be subject to review by the superintendent and school board.

VII. NOTICE

The school district will notify students and their parents of the school district's graduation requirements within 30 working days of a student's entry into ninth grade. The school district also will notify students in grades 9-12 in 2003-2004 or who transfer into the district and their parents of the school district's transition to the course credit system and options for students in grades 9 and above in 2003-2004 regarding locally established graduation requirements within 30 working days.