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 state graduation standards, test requirements or higher guidelines in all mandated academic areas as per state requirements or 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.  “Academic standard” means: (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, or the arts, or (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health, the arts, career and technical education, or world languages.

B.  “Course credit” is equivalent to a student’s successful completion of an academic trimester of study or a student’s mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district. Successful completion is determined by obtaining a grade of D- or higher in a given course. Grading scales can be found in the SSP Secondary Student Handbook.

1.  SSP Secondary students may only earn weighted grades in International Baccalaureate Diploma Program courses. A list of Diploma Courses with weighted grades can be found on the SSP Secondary website.

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 Program,” or “IEP,” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
E. “English Language Learner” or “ELL” student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose academic success may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR
The Director of Learning is the school district’s District Assessment Coordinator in charge of all test procedures.

V. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
A. All students must meet Minnesota Graduation requirements in all mandated academic course and assessment areas as per state requirements or guidelines in order to graduate.

B. Students beginning ninth grade in the 2009-2010 school year and later must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level course credits for graduation:

1. Twelve credits of language arts;

2. Nine credits of mathematics, including three credits of algebra II or its equivalent, geometry, statistics and probability, or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics. Students must satisfactorily complete three credits of algebra I by the end of 8th grade, sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics.

3. Nine credits of science, including at least three credits of biology, three credits of chemistry or physics and three elective credits of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and all other academic standards in science.

4. Twelve credits of social studies, encompassing United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics;

5. One credit of physical education;

6. Two credits in the arts;

7. A minimum of:
   a. Class of 2019 and classes thereafter, 20 MYP/elective credits plus 45 required credits for a total of 65 credits.
   b. To allow for academic interventions, MYP requirements are subject to change based on individual student needs.

C. All students must satisfactorily complete the following Minnesota Academic Standards, in accordance with the standards developed by the Department of Education:
1. Minnesota Academic Standards, English 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;
5. Minnesota Academic Standards, Arts K-12;
6. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12

D. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required and elective standards, in accordance with the standards adopted by the school district:

1. School District Standards, Health (K-12);
2. School District Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12); and

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 students and their parents are notified of the school district’s graduation requirements through the Student Handbook that is distributed and reviewed at the beginning of each school year or upon registration. Each student must sign and return the handbook agreement form indicating they have received the handbook and agree to ask questions to any policies they do not understand.

**Legal References:**

- Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota’s Students)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.024 (Graduation Requirements; Course Credits)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students’ Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Involuntary Career Tracking Prohibited)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
- 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 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, et seq. (No Child Left Behind Act)

Cross References:
MSBA/MAA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
MSBA/MAA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
MSBA/MAA Model Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
MSBA/MAA Model Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
MSBA/MAA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)