

**RED WING PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY**

**613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Adopted: 1997  
Revised: September 18, 2023

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**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. The school district must adopt graduation requirements that meet or exceed state graduation requirements established in law or rule.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “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.
- B. “Individualized Education Program” or “IEP” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- C. “English language learners” or “ELL” student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.
- D. “Required standard” means: (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and the arts, and (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health.
- E. “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.

#### **IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR**

The District shall appoint the District Assessment Coordinator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures.

#### **V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

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

- A. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, as measured against a continuum of empirically derived, clearly defined benchmarks focused on students' attainment of knowledge and skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without the need for postsecondary remediation and which facilitates the monitoring of students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analysis of students' progress and performance levels, identification of students' academic strengths and diagnosis of areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and determination of students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student based on analysis of students' progress and performance data; and
- B. Consistent with this paragraph and Minnesota Statutes section 120B.125 (*see Policy 604, Section II.H.*), 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section 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.
- E. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section and who are students in grade 11 or 12 and who are identified as academically ready for a career or college are actively encouraged by the school district 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 to graduate from high school.

- F. 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. Four credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
- B. Three credits of mathematics, including at least: (a) one credit of Intermediate Algebra or Honors Algebra; (b) one credit of Geometry or Honors Geometry; and (c) one credit of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II;
- C. Three credits of science, including at least: (a) one credit of Physical Science or Honors Physical Science; (b) one credit of Biology or Advanced Placement Biology; and (c) one credit of Chemistry, Physics, or Honors Chemistry. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy (i) all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) all other academic standards in science;
- D. Three and one-half credits of social studies, including at least (a) one credit World History, (b) one credit of United States History, (c) one-half credit of World Geography or one credit of Advanced Placement Human Geography, (d) one-half credit of Economics or one credit of Advanced Placement Economics, and (e) one-half credit of American Government in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;
- E. One credit of art. The credit may be earned from any class in the Art Department; Interior Design in the Family and Consumer Science Department; Creative Woodcrafts or Creative Metals in the Industrial Technology Department; theater courses in the Language Arts Department, or any course in the Music Department. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in the arts;
- F. One-half credit of physical education;
- G. One-half credit of health;
- H. One-half credit of Adulting 101 or Flight Paths Capstone and;
- I. A minimum number of elective credits:

Year Students Entered 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Expected Year of Graduation	Number of Elective Credits Required	Number of Total Credits Required
2017-18	2022	11	27
2018-19	2023	10	26
2019-20	2024	9	25
2020-21 and beyond	2025	8	24

J. Credit equivalencies

1. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agricultural, food, and natural resources education or business 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 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 requirement.
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 study, 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.

***[Note: Starting in the 2026-27 school year, a high school must offer an ethnic studies course; in elementary and middle schools by the 2027-28 school year.]***

## **VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS**

- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards:
  - 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 on a periodic basis. A school district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.
- 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, 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; 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 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.

***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; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)  
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 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (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:***

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)  
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)