

## **613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth requirements for graduation from Fridley Public Schools.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It is the policy of the school district that all students must meet all state mandated requirements 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 and to participate in the commencement ceremony.

### **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. “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.
- 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 learners” 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 Director of Teaching & Learning shall be named the District Assessment Coordinator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the School Board annually for approval.

## **V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

- A. All students must complete state mandated graduation requirements and local credit requirements determined by the school district.
- B. All students must satisfactorily complete the required Minnesota Academic Standards, or have met the requirements of an IEP, a Section 504 accommodation plan, or alternative learning center.

## **VI. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Students must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, a total of 27 credits, including the following high school level course credits for graduation:
  - 1. Language arts: 4 credits;
  - 2. Mathematics: 3 credits, encompassing at least algebra, geometry, statistics and probability sufficient to satisfy the academic standard. Students must satisfactorily complete an algebra II credit or its equivalent;
  - 3. Science: 3 credits, including at least 1 credit each in biology, chemistry and physics;
  - 4. Social Studies/Humanities: 3.5 credits, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics,
  - 5. Students must complete a .5 credit in each of the following areas during both their ninth and tenth grade years:
    - The Arts: 1 credit total;
    - Physical Education/Health: 1.5 credits total ;
    - Technology: 1 credit total;
    - World Language: 1.5 credits total;
  - 6. Elective Courses: A minimum of 8.5 credits;
- B. A career and technical education credit may fulfill an arts credit requirement if the credit satisfies state or local academic standards in the arts.

## **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 an annual basis.\* A school district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

\* 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, 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**



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**Fridley Public Schools** is committed to creating a welcoming, respectful environment that provides an equitable and inclusive education for each student, staff and community member by ensuring that opportunities, access, and resources are aligned to support the growth and academic achievement of each student.

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Students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for by state law, 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.

## **IX. NOTICE**

The school district will notify students and their parents of the school district's graduation requirements, through the school's registration materials, within 30 working days of a student's entry into grade nine or higher.

### ***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 3501.1400-3501.1345 (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)



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MSBA/MASA Model Policy 615 (Testing, Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)

***School Board Action:***

Adopted as Policy January 15, 2008; Incorporates Policies 8.406, 9.111, 9.114, 9.121

Revised July 15, 2008

Revised January 18, 2011

Revised September 20, 2011

Revised January 21, 2014

Revised June 21, 2016

Revised January 21, 2020