



A World-Class Community of Learners

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 school district shall appoint a 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 – FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) IN 2014-15 or later.

- 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. Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, students must satisfactorily complete algebra I or its equivalent by the end of eighth grade. Students scheduled to graduate in the 2014-2015 school year or later 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 REQUIREMENTS – FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) IN 2013-14.

- A. Students must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, a total of 29 credits, including the following high school level course credits for graduation:
 - 1. Language arts: 4.5 credits;
 - 2. Mathematics: 3.5 credits, encompassing at least algebra, geometry, statistics and probability sufficient to satisfy the academic standard. Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, students must satisfactorily complete algebra I or its equivalent by the end of eighth grade. Students scheduled to graduate in the 2014-2015 school year or later must satisfactorily complete an algebra II credit or its equivalent;
 - 3. Science: 3.5 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 9 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.

VIII. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE (9) IN 2012-13.

- A. Students must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, a total of 31 credits, including the following high school level course credits for graduation:
1. Language arts: 5 credits;
 2. Mathematics: 4 credits, encompassing at least algebra, geometry, statistics and probability sufficient to satisfy the academic standard. Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, students must satisfactorily complete algebra I or its equivalent by the end of eighth grade. Students scheduled to graduate in the 2014-2015 school year or later must satisfactorily complete an algebra II credit or its equivalent;
 3. Science: 4 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 credit total;
 6. Elective Courses: A minimum of 10 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.

IX. EARLY GRADUATION

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.

X. 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.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.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180 (Graduation Standards - Mathematics and Reading)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0200-3501.0290 (Graduation Standards - Written Composition)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505-3501.0550 (Graduation Standards – Language Arts) Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Graduation Standards –Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0800-3501.0815 (Graduation Standards –Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation –Required Assessment for Diploma)
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 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