

613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth requirements for graduation from MTCS.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of MTCS is that all students must demonstrate, as determined by MTCS, their satisfactory completion of the credit requirements and their understanding of academic standards. MTCS 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 MTCS.
- 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 MTCS environment to address the needs of an individual student with disabilities.

IV. SCHOOL ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

Director of Curriculum and Instruction shall be named MTCS 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

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, 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 MTCS 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 beginning grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later must successfully complete, as determined by MTCS, 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 sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
- C. Three credits of science, including one credit to satisfy all the earth and space science standards for grades 9 through 12, one credit to satisfy all the life science standards for grades 9 through 12, and one credit to satisfy all the chemistry or physics standards for grades 9 through 12;
- D. Three and one-half credits of social studies, including credit for a course in government and citizenship in either grade 11 or 12 for students beginning grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later or an advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other rigorous course on government and citizenship, and a combination of other credits encompassing at least United States History, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standard in social studies;
- E. One credit of the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in the arts;
- F. One credit of physical education to satisfy all state or local standards in physical education;
- G. A minimum of six elective credits. Students who began grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later are required to earn a minimum of five and one half elective credits.
- H. Students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later must successfully complete a course for one half credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12.
- I. Credit equivalencies
 - 1. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agricultural, food, and natural resources education or business education program or department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies under Paragraph D., above, 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 under Paragraph C., above, 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 MTCS. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under Paragraph C., above, if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the . 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 under Paragraph C., above.
3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph E., above.
4. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under Paragraph B., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
5. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a mathematics or science credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph C., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in mathematics or science.
6. An ethnic studies course may fulfill a social studies, 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.

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards:
 1. School Standards, Health (K-12);
 2. School Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12); and
 3. School Standards, World Languages (K-12).
- B. Academic standards in health, world languages, and career and technical education will be reviewed on an annual basis. MTCS will 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 may choose to develop its 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.022 (Elective 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.303 (Assessment Graduation Requirements)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0660 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (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)