



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

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. “Academic standard” means a summary description of student learning in a required content area or elective content area.
- B. “Curriculum” means district or school adopted programs and written plans for providing students with learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge, skills, and career and college readiness.
- C. “Credit” means a student’s successful completion of one semester of study or a student’s mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district. (Two semester credits equals one academic year).
- D. “Ethnic studies” as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.25, has the same meaning for purposes of this section. Ethnic studies curriculum may be integrated in existing curricular opportunities or provided through additional curricular offerings.
- E. “Individualized Education Program” or “IEP” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- F. “Instruction” means methods of providing learning experiences that enable students to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements including applied and experiential learning.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

The Director of Teaching and Learning or designee shall be named the school district test administrator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures.

V. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

To meet graduation requirements and receive a diploma from ISD 200, students must

successfully earn 44 high school level credits as outlined below:

A. Credit Requirements

1. Eight credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
2. Six credits of mathematics, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
3. Six credits of science, including two credits in earth and space science, two credits in life science, and two credits in either chemistry or physics are sufficient to satisfy all of the standards in science;
4. Eight credits of social studies, including credit for a course in government and citizenship, (in either grade 11 or 12, beginning with the class of 2029) or an advanced placement, or other rigorous course on government and citizenship and a combination of other credits encompassing at least United States history, geography, world history, and economics are sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;
 - a) Beginning with the Class of 2029, seven credits of social studies will be required.
5. Two credits in the arts satisfy all of the academic standards in the arts;
6. Two credits of health;
7. One credit of physical education or human performance; and
8. A minimum of eleven elective credits.
9. Beginning with the Class of 2029 and later students must successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12. A teacher of a personal finance course that satisfies the graduation requirement must have a field license or out-of-field permission in agricultural education, business, family and consumer science, social studies, or math.

B. Credit Equivalencies:

Credit equivalencies will be determined in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.024, subdivision 2, and approved by the Director of Teaching and Learning.

VI. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

A. Minnesota Academic Standards

All students must demonstrate achievement of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in the following areas:

1. Language Arts;
2. Mathematics;
3. Science;
4. Social Studies;
5. Arts; and
6. Personal Finance (grades 9-12).

B. Local Academic Standards

In addition, ISD 200 requires all students to meet locally developed academic standards in:

1. Health K-12;
 2. Physical Education or Human Performance K-12; and
 3. Career and Technical Education (as defined by district programming).
- C. 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.

VII. 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 of 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.

VIII. NOTICE

The school district will notify students and their parents of the school district's graduation requirements within 30 working days of a student's entry into ninth grade.

IX. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FOR VETERANS

- A. **Diploma:** The school district must, upon a request under Section IX(B) below issue a high

school diploma to a veteran as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 197.447 who was unable to complete their high school education for reasons related or unrelated to their military service, and who served:

1. During the Korean Conflict; or
 2. During the Vietnam War.
- B. Request: A veteran may request a diploma on their own behalf, or a family member may make a posthumous request on behalf of a deceased veteran or service member. The high school diploma is awarded based on the veteran's knowledge and experience gained while in service, or the veteran's other relevant lived experience. The school district may require the veteran or veteran's requestor to provide evidence that the veteran was a Minnesota public school student or is a current Minnesota resident.
- C. No Report Required: The school district is not required to report on diplomas issued under Minnesota Statutes, section 127A.135.
- D. Assistance: The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and county veteran service officers may provide assistance to districts fulfilling diploma requests, including but not limited to verification of discharge paperwork.

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 Goals, Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.13 (Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.251 (Ethnic Studies Requirements)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (General Requirements; Statewide Assessments)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.303 (Assessment Graduation Requirements)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.307 (College and Career Readiness)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.091 (Concurrent Enrollment Program Aid)
Minn. Stat. § 124F.08 (Education and Employment Transitions Partnerships)
Minn. Stat. § 127A.135 (High School Diploma for Veterans)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0660 (Academic Standards For Kindergarten through Grade 12)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for

Mathematics)

Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Arts Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)

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 Child Succeeds Act)t)

Cross References: *ISD 200 Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)*
ISD 200 Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
ISD 200 Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)

Resources: *Minnesota House of Representatives: [Minnesota's Graduation Requirements](#)*

Policy Reviewed: 06.11.2026

Policy Adopted: 06.17.2026

Policy Revised: 06.24.2026~~02.19.2026~~