Policy 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 entering Grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year and later 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.

A. The minimum credit requirements for high school graduation are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Full Year Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies (including all State requirements)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (including all State requirements)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (including all State requirements)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art(s)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>23 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These twenty-three (23) graduation credits may be earned in grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve during the regular school year or during summer school sessions.

All students must meet Minnesota graduation and graduation assessment requirements in accordance with the timeline established by the School Board and/or the State. Exemptions to this requirement will be granted in accordance with State Rule and Law.

III. EARLY COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minn. Stat. § 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 will be reported to the superintendent with possible review by the school board.

Early completion of graduation requirements will be permitted, but there will be only one graduation ceremony held at Northfield High School and one graduation ceremony held at the Alternative Learning Center, both traditionally held at the end of the academic year.

IV. GRANTING OF DIPLOMA

A. Upon completion of graduation requirements specified in this Policy 613 Graduation Requirements, a student will be granted a standard high school diploma.

B. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except 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.

C. Students who have or will have successfully completed graduation requirements by the last day of the school year may participate in the commencement program and receive a diploma. Students who are one-half semester credit short of either the required courses or of the total credits required may also participate in commencement but will not receive a diploma until all graduation requirements are completed. Any student who is more than 1/2 credit short of either requirement is not allowed to participate in commencement.

Policy 613 Graduation Requirements
Adopted: 1/14/2008; Revised: 9/23/13; Revised: 04.13.2020

School Board
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 659
Northfield, Minnesota

Legal References:  Minn. Stat. § 120B.02
Minn. Stat. § 120B.018
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023
Minn. Stat. § 120B.024
Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30
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 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)

Cross References: Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
Policy 614 (Mandated Testing)
Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP, Section 504, and ELL Students)