

Policy 613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. PURPOSE

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

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

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Full Year Credits</u>
Language Arts	4
Social Studies (including all State requirements)	3.5
Mathematics (including all State requirements)	3
Science (including all State requirements)	3
Physical Education	1
Arts	1
Health	.5
Electives	7
TOTAL	23 credits

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 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 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.

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Board of Education

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659

Northfield, Minnesota

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements 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 (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.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 3501.0800-3501.0820 (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)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)
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 IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)