



5391

## Graduation Requirements

*Policy 5391*

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Review Dates: 11/19/2012

### I. PURPOSE

This policy is to establish the requirements for graduation from Minneapolis Public Schools in compliance with Minnesota law and statewide graduation standards established thereby.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

All students must complete the following requirements in order to earn a diploma for graduation from a Minneapolis Public High School.

### III. CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING BEFORE 2019.

A. Required Credits. A minimum of twenty one and a half (21.5) year-long credits is required for graduation beginning with the class graduating in 2009. These credits include:

1. Four (4) year-long credits in Language Arts.
2. Four (4) year-long credits in Social Studies encompassing
  - (a) Three and a half (3.5) year-long credits in
    - [i] United States history,
    - [ii] geography,
    - [iii] world history, and
    - [iv] government and citizenship, and
  - (b) One half (0.5) credit in economics. Economics courses may be taught through the social studies department or the business department.
3. Three (3) year-long credits in Mathematics encompassing, at a minimum:
  - (a) Geometry
  - (b) Algebra II or statistics and probability
  - (c) Completion of an Algebra I course credit while enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall earn an elective credit only.
4. Three (3) year-long credits in Science encompassing, at a minimum:
  - (a) biology;
  - (b) either chemistry or physics.
5. One (1) year-long credit in the arts;
6. One (1) year-long credit in Physical Education;
7. One (1) year-long credit in Health;
8. Four and a half (4.5) year-long elective credits.

B. Career and Technical Education Courses. The Superintendent may designate certain career and technical education courses that meet the same academic standards to



satisfy the credit requirements of the science, mathematics or arts requirements established in paragraphs III.A.3, III. A.4, and III.A.5 above.

#### **IV. CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2019 AND THEREAFTER**

- A. Required Credits. A minimum of twenty one and a half (21.5) year-long credits is required for graduation. These credits include:
1. Four (4) year-long credits in Language Arts.
  2. Three and a half (3.5) year-long credits in Social Studies encompassing
    - (a) United States history,
    - (b) human geography,
    - (c) world history, and
    - (d) government and citizenship, and
    - (e) economics. Economics courses may be taught through the social studies department or the business department.
  3. Three (3) year-long credits in Mathematics encompassing, at a minimum:
    - (a) One (1) year-long credit in geometry
    - (b) One (1) year-long credit in algebra II or statistics and probability
    - (c) Completion of an Algebra I course credit while enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall earn an elective credit only.
  4. Three (3) year-long credits in Science, encompassing at a minimum:
    - (a) One (1) year-long credit in biology; and
    - (b) One (1) year-long credit in either chemistry or physics.
  5. One (1) year-long credit in the arts;
  6. One half (0.5) year-long credit in Physical Education;
  7. One half (0.5) year-long credit in Health;
  8. Six (6) year-long elective credits.
- B. Career and Technical Education Courses. The Superintendent may designate certain career and technical education courses that meet the same academic standards to satisfy the credit requirements of the science, mathematics or arts requirements established in paragraphs IV.A.3, IV. A.4, and IV.A.5 above.

#### **V. OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Testing. Students must meet state testing requirements.
- B. Personal Learning Plan. Each student must develop a plan for smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment and meet yearly milestones established in that plan.

#### **VI. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “year-long credit” is the equivalent of the successful completion of an academic year of study or student mastery of applicable state standards.



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- B. “Personal Learning Plan” is the plan using the career and college exploration and decision assisting curriculum framework used by Minneapolis Public Schools.

**VII. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Superintendent may develop procedures and policies to implement this policy.

***Legal References:***

20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (No Child Left Behind Act)  
Minn. Stat. §120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota’s Students)  
Minn. Stat. §120B.023 (Benchmarks)  
Minn. Stat. §120B.024 (Graduation Requirements; Course Credits)  
Minn. Stat. §120B.11(School District Process)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505 – 3501.0635 (K-12 Standards)

***Cross References:***

MPS Policy 6273 (Local Standards and Assessments)  
MPS Policy 6274 (State Required Assessments)

MPS Regulation 5391 A (Granting Credits)  
MPS Regulation 5391 B (Graduation Requirements for Transfer Students)