



6207

Rigorous Course Waiver

Policy 6207

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Review Dates:

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I. PURPOSE

Minnesota law authorizes school districts to grant a rigorous course waiver for courses required for graduation. This waiver allows students the opportunity to enroll in courses, learning opportunities, or employment preparatory programs offered by post-secondary institutions or out of district program providers, advanced placement courses, International Baccalaureate approved courses and the like to meet graduation standards in place of the standard graduation requirements of the District. The purpose of this policy is to establish when such a waiver may be granted.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Secondary students with their parents' consent may apply for a rigorous course waiver for any course identified by the district as a requirement for graduation.
- B. Rigorous course waivers shall be granted only when participation in the proposed replacement course, learning opportunity or employment preparatory program would be precluded by requiring the student to meet the required academic standards in the course to be replaced.
- C. Rigorous course waivers shall be granted only when the proposed replacement for a required course:
 1. Meets or exceeds the corresponding academic standards required by law or district policy in the course to be waived.
 2. Is completed successfully by the student.
- D. Rigorous course waivers shall only be granted for courses in the same specific content area of study as the proposed replacement course, learning opportunity or employment preparatory program.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures for granting rigorous course waivers.
- B. District academic staff is responsible for establishing whether or not a proposed replacement meets or exceeds the specific academic standards of the course to be waived.
- C. Procedures for application for a rigorous course waiver shall be published and made available to district secondary students and their families.



Legal References:

Minn. Stat. §120B.021(Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. §120B.021, subd. 1a (Rigorous course of study; waiver)
Minn. Stat. §120B.022 (Elective Standards)
Minn. Stat. §120B.024, Subd.1 (Credits: Graduation Requirements)

Cross References:

MPS Policy 5391 (Graduation Requirements)
MPS Policy 6200 (Curriculum and Instruction)
MPS Policy 6221 (Credit by Assessment)
MPS Policy 6222 (Online Learning)
MPS Policy 6223 (Credit for High School Courses)
MPS Policy 6273 (Local Standards and Assessment)
MPS Policy 6510 (Work-Based Learning)