

Technical Academies of Minnesota

Adopted: Orig.

Revised: 8/25/2020

610 GRADUATION POLICY

I. Purpose

This policy sets forth requirements for graduation from the District.

II. General Statement of Policy

It is the District's policy that all students will fulfill applicable state required assessments as well as satisfactorily complete all course requirements and , as determined by the district and as established by the school board, in order to receive a diploma.

III. Definitions

A. Course credit

Is equivalent to a student's successful completion of a semester of study or a student's mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the District.

B. Section 504 Plan

The defined appropriate accommodations or modifications that must be made in the school environment to support an individual student with an identified need.

C. Individualized Education Program

A written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.

D. Academic standard

1. A statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, world language, or the arts; or
2. A locally adopted expectation for student learning in health, the arts, or career and technical Education.

E. English language learners or "ELL" student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.

IV. Test Administrator

The District Assessment Coordinator is the District test administrator and in charge of all test procedures.

V. Graduation Requirements

Students must fulfill state graduation requirements and successfully complete, high school level courses, as determined by the District, to graduate from a District school.

VI. Requirements to Participate in Graduation Ceremony

- A. The high school graduation ceremony is the commencement event provided to students, families, and community by the school district. A high school senior with the required course credits will be allowed to participate in the ceremony. The school Convener or designee will present a list of seniors to receive a diploma from the District to the School Board for its approval prior to the ceremony.
- B. The District reserves the right to not allow a student to participate in or attend the graduation ceremony for inappropriate and/or destructive behavior. This includes but is not limited to destroying or damaging property, disrupting the school day or activities, injuring or harming people or animals, or engaging in disrespectful behavior toward fellow District students or staff.
- C. In accordance with state law, the District will not charge fees for rental or purchase of caps, gowns, or diplomas.

VII. Early Graduation

- A. In accordance with state law, students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 upon meeting the following conditions:
 - 1. All course or standards and credit requirements must be met;
 - 2. All test requirements or higher guidelines have been satisfied;
 - 3. The Advisor will conduct an interview with the student and parent or guardian, familiarize the parties with opportunities available in postsecondary education, and arrive at a timely decision; and
 - 4. The Advisor's decision will be in writing and may be subject to review by the School Board.

VIII. Notice

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

IX. STATE AND DISTRICT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Graduation Assessment Requirements

1. All enrolled students are subject to the following assessment requirements, unless the parents/guardians opt out:
 - a. Must participate in the MCA assessments in Reading, Math, and Science
 - b. Must have had an opportunity to complete the ACT Plus Writing in Grade 11.
2. All students must complete the currently adopted Minnesota Academic Standards, in accordance with the standards developed by the Minnesota Department of Education:
 - a. Minnesota Academic Standards, Language Arts K-12;
 - b. Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12;
 - c. Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12;
 - d. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12;
 - e. Minnesota Academic Standards, Arts K-12; and
 - f. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12
3. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards:
 - a. School District Standards, Health K-12; and
 - b. School District Standards, Career and Technical Education K-12.
 - c. School District Standards, World Languages K-12;
4. All students must also successfully demonstrate mastery of one of the following required standards:
 - a. Complete thirty two (32) credits, as recorded on the high school transcript.
 - b. Have met the requirements of an IEP or Section 504 Plan

B. Graduation Course Requirements

1. Students must successfully complete, as determined by the District, the following high school level course semester credits for graduation:
 - a. Graduation will occur at a District school upon the completion of the following:
 - i. Completion of 32 credits (8 credits earned for each grade at TAM in grades 9-12.
 - ii. Completion of all required Minnesota Academic Standards – Please see your student’s advisor if you have any questions about your child’s progress in completing the required MN Academic Standards
 - iii. Language Arts (4.0 credits)
 - iv. Social Studies (3.5 credits) - Students must have earned credits in each of the following areas: US History, World History, Economics, Geography, and Government)
 - v. Science (3.0 credits) - Students must have 1.0 credits in Life Science/Biology and 1.0 credits in Physical Sciences (Chem. or Physics)
 - vi. Math (3.0 credits) - Students must have Algebra II, Geometry and Probability and Statistics or Personal Finance or other Math courses.
 - vii. Reading (2.0 Credits)

- viii. Art (1.0 credit)
- ix. Physical Education and Health (1.5 credit) – Students must earn (0.5) credits in Health and (1.0) in Physical Fitness
- x. Electives (12.0 credits) - World Languages, Career and Technical Education, Community Service/Service Learning, and Lifelong Learning
- xi. Completing all required tests (MCA/ASVAB/ACT etc.)
- xii. Complete a Junior Project.
- xiii. Completing the Senior Project (which is included in the 8 required senior year credits).
- xiv. Students who do not complete these requirements will not receive a diploma.

C. By the end of grade 12, students who are continuously enrolled in grades 10-12 will meet one or more of the following:

1. Meet the requirements for secondary school graduation; and,
2. Complete a work experience program and enter the workplace with the skills necessary to obtain a livable wage job; and/or,
3. Complete one or more “industry recognized certificates” as determined by the student passing an industry developed test; and/or,
4. Complete an occupational area training at a technical college such as carpentry, cosmetology, heavy machinery, etc.; and/or,
5. Complete one or more years of postsecondary education and on track to complete an AA degree while at the Academy or within one year of graduating from the Academy; and/or,
6. Complete one or more years of postsecondary education and be admitted to a four year university

Legal References: 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.07 (Early Graduation)
 Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
 Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180 (Rules Relating to Graduation Standards –Mathematics and Reading)
 Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0200-3501.0290 (Rules Relating to Graduation Standards –Written Composition)
 Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505-3501.0635 (K-12 Standards)
 20 U.S.C. § 6301, et seq. (No Child Left Behind Act)

Cross References: Policy 601 (Academic Standards and Instructional Curriculum)
 Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan)

Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)
Appendix I to Policy 610