

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth requirements for graduation from the Monticello Public School District.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is that all students entering grade 8 in the 2012-2013 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.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Academic standard” means: (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, or the arts, or (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health, career and technical education, or world languages.
- B. “Credit” means a student’s successful completion of an academic year of study or a student’s mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district.
- C. “Section 504 Accommodation” means the defined appropriate accommodations or modifications that must be made in the school environment to address the needs of an individual student with disabilities.
- D. “Individualized Education Plan,” or “IEP,” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- 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. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

The Monticello School District shall appoint a District Assessment Coordinator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the school board annually for approval.

V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, students’

state graduation requirements, based on a longitudinal, systematic approach to student education and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation, include the following:

- A. An opportunity to participate on a nationally normed college entrance exam in grade 11 or grade 12;
- B. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, as measured against a continuum of empirically derived, clearly defined benchmarks focused on students' attainment of knowledge and skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without the need for postsecondary remediation and which facilitates the
 - 1. monitoring of students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analysis of students' progress and performance levels, identification of students' academic strengths and diagnosis of areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and
 - 2. determination of students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student based on analysis of students' progress and performance data.
- C. Consistent with this paragraph and Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (see Policy 604, Section II.H.), age-appropriate exploration and planning activities and career assessments to encourage students to identify personally relevant career interests and aptitudes.

The district will help students and their families develop a regularly reexamined transition plan for postsecondary education or employment without need for postsecondary remediation.

- D. Based on appropriate state guidelines, students with an IEP may satisfy state graduation requirements by achieving an individual score on the state-identified alternative assessments. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section must receive targeted, relevant, academically rigorous, and resourced instruction which may include a targeted instruction and intervention plan focused on improving the student's knowledge and skills in core subjects so that the student has a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without need for postsecondary remediation.
- E. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section and who are students in grade 11 or 12 and who are identified as academically ready for a career or college are actively encouraged by the school district to participate in courses and programs awarding

college credit to high school students. Students are not required to achieve a specified score or level of proficiency on an assessment-to graduate from high school.

- F. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

According to the state of Minnesota, students complete the academic standards by taking a core course of study that equips them with the knowledge and skills they need for success in postsecondary education, highly skilled work, and civic life. In order to graduate, your child's high school coursework must include at least the minimum state course credit requirements. A course credit is equivalent to a student successfully completing an academic year of study or mastering the subject matter, as determined by the local school district. Students must complete a **minimum of 21.5** course credits.

Monticello Public Schools requires 24 credits for graduation. They are as follows:

- A. Students beginning 8th grade in the 2012-2013 school year and later must successfully complete the following high school level credits for graduation:
 1. **Four credits of language arts** sufficient to satisfy all of the state academic standards in English language arts;
 2. **Three credits of mathematics**, including an Algebra credit by the end of 8th grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics; and an Algebra II credit or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the state academic standards in mathematics;
 3. **Three credits of science**, including at least
 - (a) one credit of biology;
 - (b) one credit of chemistry, physics or Career and Technical Education (CTE) (which must meet the standards underlying the chemistry or physics credit); and
 - (c) one additional credit of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy (i) all of the state academic standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) all other state academic standards in science;

4. **Three and one-half credits of social studies**, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the state academic standards in social studies;
5. **One credit of the arts** sufficient to satisfy all of the state academic standards in the arts;
6. **One credit of physical education** sufficient to satisfy all of the state academic standards in physical education
7. **One credit of technology**, which may include computer applications and another technology elective, sufficient to satisfy all of the local academic standards in technology
8. **One-half credit of health** sufficient to satisfy all of the local academic standards in health
9. **One-half credit of careers coursework** sufficient to satisfy all of the local academic standards in careers
10. **A minimum of 6.5 elective credits.**
11. Credit equivalencies
 - a. A one-half credit of economics taught in an agriculture education or business department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies under Section VI.B.5. if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
 - b. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under Section VI.A.4., above, if the credit meets the state physical science, life science, earth and space science, chemistry, or physics academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the school district. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under VI.A.4., above, if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the school district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry or physics academic standards prior to graduation. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under VI.A.4., above.

- c. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under Section VI.B.2. or Section VI.B.6. computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under VI.A.2., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
- d. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a science or mathematics credit requirement under VI.A.2. or VI.A.4., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in science or mathematics.

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required state Graduation Standards in accordance with the standards developed by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE):
 - 1. Minnesota Academic Standards, English Language Arts K-12;
 - 2. Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12;
 - 3. Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12;
 - 4. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12;
 - 5. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12; and
 - 6. Minnesota Academic Standards, Arts K-12.
- B. In addition, Monticello Public Schools requires that all students must demonstrate their understanding of the following nationally and/or locally developed academic standards in the following areas:
 - 1. School District Standards, Health and Human Growth and Development (K-12); and
 - 2. School District Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12);
- C. In addition, Monticello Public Schools requires that all students enrolled in elective courses which have national standards associated with those courses must demonstrate their understanding of the nationally developed academic standards in the following areas:
 - 1. National Standards in World Languages
 - 2. National Standards in Family and Consumer Science
 - 3. National Standards in Business Education

- D. Other Requirements – must meet one of the following requirements
1. Complete eight semesters of high school and twenty-four total credits (see below for Early Graduation as an exception);
 2. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except the very few 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.;
 3. Have met the requirements of a Section 504 accommodation plan:
 4. Have met the requirements of an approved Alternative Learning Program.

VIII. EARLY GRADUATION

Students at the Monticello High School may be considered for early graduation 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 may be subject to review by the Superintendent and school board.
- D. Students may apply for early graduation by requesting a waiver for the graduation requirement of attending high school for 8 semesters. Procedures are located in the counseling office at the high school.

Students at the Monticello Alternative Learning Program may be considered for early graduation upon meeting the requirements of Policy 536.

Revised and Approved:

07/07/76	03/24/94	03/09/89	08/22/16
12/04/78	11/06/01	03/05/90	09/10/18
03/09/81	04/07/08	03/04/91	05/18/20
02/28/83	01/23/12	06/06/14	