

## **620 CREDIT FOR LEARNING**

*[Note: With the repeal of the Profile of Learning, school districts no longer are required to have a process for the transfer of Profile of Learning related content standards, recognition of completed work, credit by assessment, or waiver of content standards. A school district may continue to implement Profile of Learning content standards and manage the standards they choose to retain in whatever manner they deem appropriate. Therefore, portions of this policy retain references to the management of Profile of Learning content standards. As noted throughout the policy, those school districts that have eliminated Profile of Learning content standards from their curriculum should remove these references. School districts statutorily are required to provide students with credit for approved post-secondary courses, as set forth in Section VI.; online learning courses, as set forth in Section VII.; and accelerated or advanced academic courses offered by a higher education institution or nonprofit public agency, as set forth in Section VIII. Optional provisions related to awarding credit to students transferring from out-of-state, private, or home schools and the issuance of student grades for purposes of awarding certain honors, as set forth in Section V., are not required by statute. Therefore, the language contained in Section V. is suggested language, and a school district may or may not include this section or may modify this section at its discretion.]*

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to recognize student achievement which occurs in Post-Secondary Enrollment Options and other advanced enrichment programs. For students completing Profile of Learning content standards pursuant to Policy 613, the purpose of this policy also is to recognize student achievement which occurs in other schools, in alternative learning sites, and in out-of-school experiences such as community organizations, work-based learning, and other educational activities and opportunities. *[Note: School districts that have eliminated the Profile of Learning content standards as part of their curriculum should delete this reference to the Profile of Learning.]* The purpose of this policy also is to address the transfer of student credit from out-of-state, private, or home schools and online learning programs and to address how the school district will recognize student achievement obtained outside of the school district.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The policy of the school district is to provide a process for awarding students credit toward graduation requirements for credits and grades students complete in other schools, post-secondary or higher education institutions, and online courses and programs. The policy of the school district is also to develop and provide processes and procedures by which students may meet a graduation requirement for a Profile of Learning content

standard, whether the school district offers the content standard in its curriculum or the student accomplishes the work in another learning environment. The school district may also waive the Profile of Learning content standards for certain students if the criteria for such waivers are met.

*[Note: School districts that have eliminated the Profile of Learning content standards as part of their curriculum should delete these references to the Profile of Learning.]*

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Accredited school” means a school that is accredited by an accrediting agency, recognized according to Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 or recognized by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).
- B. “Blended learning” is a form of digital learning that occurs when a student learns part time in a supervised physical setting and part time through digital delivery of instruction, or a student learns in a supervised physical setting where technology is used as a primary method to deliver instruction.
- C. “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of MDE.
- D. “Digital learning” is learning facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of their learning and includes blended and online learning.
- E. “Eligible institution” means a Minnesota public post-secondary institution, a private, nonprofit two-year trade and technical school granting associate degrees, an opportunities industrialization center accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, or a private, residential, two-year or four-year, liberal arts, degree-granting college or university located in Minnesota.
- F. “Nonpublic school” is a private school or home school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with the Minnesota compulsory attendance laws.
- G. “Online learning” is a form of digital learning delivered by an approved online learning provider.
- H. “Online learning provider” is a school district, an intermediate school district, an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that provides online learning to students and is approved by MDE to provide online learning courses.

### **IV. CREDIT FOR COMPLETION OF PROFILE OF LEARNING CONTENT STANDARDS**

*[Note: School districts that have eliminated the Profile of Learning content standards as part of their curriculum should delete this section of the policy.]*

A. Transfer of Content Standards

1. The school district will transfer high school Profile of Learning content standards achieved in earlier grades or in other schools on standards-based programs to the student's record upon admission, completion of a summer school program, or the like.
2. When a student transfers into the school district from another Minnesota public school district, any Profile of Learning content standards completed in the sending school district, along with scores recorded by the sending district, shall be recorded as completed with a notation indicating the identity of the school district from which the records are transferred.

*[Note: The process set forth in this policy is the process MDE formerly suggested school districts follow.]*

3. Students may be advised of the opportunities available to complete further requirements and electives.

B. Recognition of Completed Work for Profile of Learning Content Standards

1. The school district will translate work completed by eligible students electing to complete the Profile of Learning content standards pursuant to Policy 613, including those with special needs, in schools (K-12, post-secondary, or other) which have not reported achievement according to the Minnesota Graduation Standards, into standards completion equalizations.
2. When a student transfers into the school district with a transcript from a school or school district other than a Minnesota public school district, the following shall be the policy and procedure for recognizing such previous achievement for those eligible students electing to complete the Profile of Learning content standards pursuant to Policy 613:
  - a. When the student has been scored with a performance assessment that fulfills or approximates the provisions of a full standard, the standards completed shall be treated as if they had been accomplished in a Minnesota public school;
  - b. When the course, topic or content of a Minnesota high school Profile of Learning content standard has been completed, but through requirements which do not parallel or approximate the Profile of Learning content standards adopted by the school district, the standard shall be declared achieved, no score shall be assigned, and the transcript shall indicate that the standard has been "equalized from a transcript from *[name of sending institution]*."

- c. Effort shall be made to ascertain the content of courses, programs, and learning previously achieved to credit the student as fully as possible for previous learning. This may include asking the student or the sending school to verify content of completed courses and programs when that content is not clear from the transcript.

***[Note: The process set forth in this policy is the process MDE formerly suggested school districts follow.]***

C. Credit for Profile of Learning Content Standards By Assessment

1. The school district will provide eligible students electing to complete the Profile of Learning content standards pursuant to Policy 613, including those with special needs, with the opportunity to receive credit for standards achieved in extracurricular activities, activities outside of school, previous learning, and community and work experiences.
2. When a student requests recognition of work completed but for which no academic transcript exists, the student shall make application to the principal.
3. Not more than sixty (60) days after the application is filed, the principal shall inform the student and the student's parents what evidence must be presented to certify the completion of the Profile of Learning content standard. Evidence of completion might include letters of support and explanation from individuals or organizations who have actually witnessed the student's demonstration of the standard, oral or written tests or interviews, actual performances or demonstrations assessed by district staff or others knowledgeable in the specifications of the standard, and/or other as appropriate for the individual situation.
4. Upon the principal's determination of successful submission of the required evidence, the Profile of Learning content standard shall be noted on the transcript, with a score if appropriate, and a notation of where and when the standard was completed and verified.

***[Note: The process set forth in this policy is the process MDE formerly suggested school districts follow.]***

D. Waiver of Profile of Learning Content Standards for Rigorous Course of Study

1. Upon application of a student, with approval of the student's parent or guardian and with the recommendation of the student's teacher, the school district may declare that a student has completed a Profile of Learning content standard if the school board determines that:

- a. The student is participating in a course of study, including an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or a learning opportunity outside the curriculum of the school district that is equally or more rigorous than the Profile of Learning content standard required by the school district or state Graduation Rule; and
  - b. Achieving the Profile of Learning content standard to be waived would preclude the student from participating in the rigorous course of study or learning opportunity.
2. A waiver may not have the effect of a student graduating with no completed Profile of Learning content standards in any of the learning areas one through nine of the Profile of Learning content standards adopted by the school district and a waiver should rarely be granted from more than one requirement.
  3. Application for a waiver will be considered only if the application is submitted not more than eighteen (18) months and not less than six (6) months prior to the student's anticipated graduation date.
  4. A waiver will be revoked if the student fails to successfully complete the alternative rigorous program.

*[Note: In complying with the requirement in this section, school districts may impose conditions on such waivers to reduce the number of waivers needed. The conditions set forth in Paragraphs IV.D.2., 3., and 4. for granting such waivers are those conditions formerly suggested by MDE.]*

## V. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

### A. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Minnesota Public Secondary Schools

1. The school district will accept and transfer secondary credits and grades awarded to a student from another Minnesota public secondary school upon presentation of a certified transcript from the transferring public secondary school evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
2. Credits and grades awarded from another Minnesota public secondary school may be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank if a student has earned at least *[see High School Principal]* credits from the school district.

### B. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Schools

1. The school district will accept secondary credits and grades awarded to a

student for courses successfully completed at a public school outside of Minnesota or an accredited nonpublic school upon presentation of a certified transcript from the transferring public school in another state or nonpublic school evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.

- a. When a determination is made that the content of the course aligns directly with school district graduation requirements, the student will be awarded commensurate credits and grades.
  - b. Commensurate credits and grades awarded from an accredited nonpublic school or public school in another state may be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank if a student has earned at least *[see High School Principal]* credits from the school district.
  - c. In the event the content of a course taken at an accredited nonpublic school or public school in another state does not fully align with the content of the school district's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements. Credit that does not fully align with the school district's high school graduation requirements will not be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.
  - d. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, no credit will be provided to the student.
2. Students transferring from a non-accredited, nonpublic school shall receive credit from the school district upon presentation of a transcript or other documentation evidencing the course taken and grade and credit awarded.
- a. Students will be required to provide copies of course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples for determination of appropriate credit. In addition, students also may be asked to provide interviews/conferences with the student and/or student's parent and/or former administrator or teacher; review of a record of the student's entire curriculum at the nonpublic school; and review of the student's complete record of academic achievement.
  - b. Where the school district determines that a course completed by a student at a non-accredited, nonpublic school is commensurate with school district graduation requirements, credit shall be awarded, but the grade shall be "P" (pass).
  - c. In the event the content of a course taken at an non-accredited,

nonpublic school does not fully align with the content of the school district's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements.

- d. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which local high school graduation credit would be provided, no credit will be provided to the student.
- e. Credit and grades earned from a non-accredited nonpublic school shall not be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.

## **VI. POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT CREDIT**

- A. A student who satisfactorily completes a post-secondary enrollment options course or program under Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 that has been approved as meeting the necessary requirements is not required to complete other requirements of the Profile of Learning content standards adopted by the school district corresponding to that specific rigorous course of study.

*[Note: School districts that have eliminated the Profile of Learning content standards as part of their curriculum should delete this reference to the Profile of Learning.]*

- B. Secondary credits granted to a student through a post-secondary enrollment options course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement shall be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of a student completing the Minnesota Academic Standards.
  - 1. Course credit will be considered by the school district only upon presentation of a certified transcript from an eligible institution evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
  - 2. Seven quarter or four semester post-secondary credits shall equal at least one full year of high school credit. Fewer post-secondary credits may be prorated.
  - 3. When a determination is made that the content of the post-secondary course aligns directly with a required course for high school graduation, the commensurate credit and grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as a course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
  - 4. In the event the content of the post-secondary course does not fully align with the content of a high school course required for graduation but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the school district may provide elective credit and the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as an elective course credit applied

toward graduation requirements.

5. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the school district will notify the Commissioner, who shall determine the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.
  6. When secondary credit is granted for post-secondary credits taken by a student, the school district will record those credits on the student's transcript as credits earned at a post-secondary institution.
- C. A list of the courses or programs meeting the necessary requirements may be obtained from the school district.

## **VII. CREDIT FROM ONLINE LEARNING COURSES**

- A. Secondary credits granted to a student through an online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement shall be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of a student completing the Minnesota Academic Standards.
- B. Course credit will be considered only upon official documentation from the online learning provider evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded to the student.
- C. When a student provides documentation from an online learning provider, the course credit and course grade shall be recorded and counted toward graduation credit requirements for all courses or programs that meet or exceed the school district's graduation requirements in the same manner as credits are awarded for students transferring from another Minnesota public school as set forth in Section V.A. above.

## **VIII. ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDIT**

- A. The school district will grant academic credit to a student attending an accelerated or advanced academic course offered by a higher education institution or a nonprofit public agency, other than the school district.
- B. Course credit will be considered only upon official documentation from the higher education institution or nonprofit public agency that the student successfully completed the course attended and passed an examination approved by the school district.
- C. When a determination is made that the content of the advanced academic course aligns directly with a required course for high school graduation, the commensurate credit and grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as a course credit applied toward graduation requirements.

- D. In the event the content of the advanced academic course does not fully align with the content of a high school course required for graduation but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the school district may provide elective credit and the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as an elective course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
- E. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the school district will notify the Commissioner and request a determination of the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.

## **IX. PROCESS FOR AWARDING CREDIT**

- A. The building principal will be responsible for carrying out the process to award credits and grades pursuant to this policy. The building principal will notify students in writing of the decision as to how credits and grades will be awarded.
- B. A student or the student's parent or guardian may seek reconsideration of the decision by the building principal as to credits and/or grades awarded upon request of a student or the student's parent or guardian if the request is made in writing to the superintendent within five school days of the date of the building principal's decision. The request should set forth the credit and/or grade requested and the reason(s) why credit(s)/grade(s) should be provided as requested. Any pertinent documentation in support of the request should be submitted.
- C. The decision of the superintendent as to the award of credits or grades shall be a final decision by the school district and shall not be appealable by the student or student's parent or guardian except as set forth in Section IX.D. below.
- D. If a student disputes the number of credits granted by the school district for a particular post-secondary enrollment course, online learning course, or advanced academic credit course, the student may appeal the school district's decision to the Commissioner. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
- E. At any time during the process, the building principal or superintendent may ask for course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples from a course where content of the course is in question for purposes of determining alignment with graduation requirements or the number of credits to be granted. Students will not be provided credit until requested documentation is available for review, if requested.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota's Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.14 (Advanced Academic Credit)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 (Nonpublic Education Council)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03, Subd. 9 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.095 (Online Learning Option)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180 (Graduation Standards – Mathematics and Reading)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0200-3501.0290 (Graduation Standards – Written Composition)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0505-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0800-3501.0815 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation-Required Assessment for Diploma)

***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 613 (Graduation Requirements)  
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)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 624 (Online Learning Options)