

POLICY

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS 3540 Instruction

It is the policy of the BOARD to establish minimum requirements for graduation from the Madison Metropolitan School District. These minimum requirements provide consistent standards for graduation for all Madison high school students and, at the same time, allow a variety of options through which students may meet the requirements. Through these requirements we believe that we will prepare college, career and community ready graduates while simultaneously developing the skills outlined in our vision of the MMSD graduate.

The BOARD will not grant a high school diploma to any student unless, during the high school grades, the student has been enrolled in a class or has participated in an activity approved by the BOARD during each class period of each school day, or the student has been enrolled in an alternative education program, as defined in Wisconsin statute and administrative code. Approved activity includes any course or activity under the responsibility of the school, with the school having flexibility in defining an accountability system which shows whether students are where they are supposed to be.

PROCEDURE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS 3540 Instruction

1. Number of Required Credits

A student will have earned a minimum of twenty-two (22) credits as one criterion for graduation from a Madison high school

- a. The PRINCIPAL is responsible for determining whether a student has met the graduation requirements and for recommending a student for graduation,
- b. A student and the staff of the high school the student is attending may develop a mutually acceptable program leading to early attainment of credits and early graduation (See Policy 4013 - Age of Students).

2. Distribution of Credits

- a. For Students Graduating from a Madison High School After July 1, 2020:
 - i. One and a half (1½) credits of physical education, which incorporate instruction in the effects of exercise on the human body, health-related physical fitness, and activities for lifetime use;
 - ii. Earned in grades 7 to 12, at least one-half (.5) credit of health education which incorporates instruction in personal, family,

community, and environmental health and hands-only CPR;

- iii. Four (4) credits of English, which must use grade-level Board-adopted standards for English Language Arts and incorporate instruction in reading literature and informational texts, writing, speaking and listening and language, including English 1 and English 2;
 - iv. Three (3) credits of social studies, which shall include instruction in state and local government, one (1) credit of U.S. history, and one-half (1/2) credit of modern U.S. history at grades 10, 11 OR 12;
 - v. Three (3) credits of mathematics, including at least one course addressing algebraic concepts and one course in geometric concepts, unless such courses have been completed prior to high school, in which case credits may be satisfied by completion of any three mathematics courses;
 - vi. Three (3) credits of science, which incorporate instruction in the biological and physical sciences;
 - vii. Successfully complete a course that incorporates financial literacy or consumer education, which provides instruction in consumer rights, money management, borrowing, earning power, investing, financial services and insurance;
 - viii. One (1) credit in the humanities, which includes world language, visual arts, music, and/or theater (for students graduating on or after July 1, 2019);
 - ix. As many elective courses, which may also result in earning additional core credits (credits in subject areas set forth in i-viii, above), as necessary in order to complete the remaining total credit requirements.
3. If a student fails a required course and fails to earn an attempted credit, the student may make-up the credit through another credit-bearing option within the same academic discipline.
 4. Seniors are required to carry at least four (4) credits during their entire senior year.
 5. Physical education credit may be earned through semester work or via an independent study program determined by the administrative team at each high school.
 6. One-half (1/2) humanities credit is granted for successful completion of a

semester of band, orchestra, and chorus meeting the equivalent of five traditional class periods per week.

7. One-half (1/2) credit is granted for successful completion of a semester of health education
8. One-quarter (1/4) elective credit is granted for successful completion of the classroom phase of driver education.
9. A student who participates in a Board recognized athletic activity (see MMSD Athletic Code https://athletics.madison.k12.wi.us/files/athletics/uploads/2019-20_district_athletic_code_final_9.2019.pdf for a complete list) may, upon application and approval, be permitted to complete an additional one-half credit (.5) in English, social studies, mathematics, health or science in lieu of one half credit (.5) of physical education. In order to be eligible for a .5 credit substitution a STUDENT **must**:
 - a. have prior written approval from the PRINCIPAL or his/her designee;
 - b. participate in a recognized athletic activity for three seasons; and
 - c. be an athlete in good standing during the entire season including regular attendance at all practices and competitions;

If a request to substitute credit for physical education is denied, a written appeal may be submitted to the SUPERINTENDENT or his/her designee within 10 calendar days of the denial. The SUPERINTENDENT or his/her designee shall issue a written decision within 5 business days. The SUPERINTENDENT'S or his/her designee's decision is final.

10. Course Equivalency

Students may earn credit in English Language Arts, science, social studies, and/or mathematics through an equivalent course(s). An equivalent course is a BOARD-approved course that contains significant content for one of these areas but is taught in a technical or applied setting. Equivalent courses must contain the time allotment and substantially similar learning objectives as the course for which it serves as an equivalent.

11. Graduation by Portfolio

Graduates will meet the requirements of the Graduation via Portfolio model through competency-based teaching and learning and portfolio defenses. Graduation requirements include the mastery of CCSS core benchmarks for literacy, mathematics, and science through a competency-based teaching and learning model with equivalency to align to the Carnegie credit graduation requirements. Graduates will also demonstrate mastery of MMSD Graduate Vision competencies through a performance assessment model of portfolio defense.

12. Additional Graduation Requirements

- a. A student must successfully complete the state-mandated civics exam. Successful completion is defined as answering at least 65% of the presented questions correctly. Students will be permitted to take the exam as many times as necessary in order to obtain successful completion.
- b. In addition to successfully completing the credit requirements set forth above, a student must also have a 1.67 or higher cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) in each of the four core content areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies). A diploma will be granted to a student who meets the credit requirements and has at least a 1.67 cumulative GPA as set forth above.
- c. If a student has met the credit requirements but does not meet the academic performance criteria as set forth in paragraph b above, the student may obtain a teacher recommendation by completing a District-defined portfolio of academic work that provides evidence the student has met the District-accepted standards for 12th grade in the content area(s) in which the student does not have a 1.67 GPA. A student may use a portfolio to provide evidence of meeting 12th Grade District-accepted standards in one non-core content area (e.g. Fine Arts, Foreign Language). A diploma will be granted to a student who meets all of the portfolio requirements as set forth above.

13. The general student graduation requirements apply to a student with a disability who is eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) unless modified or alternative graduation criteria are designated in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) by the appropriate team members. The IEP Team that initially determines modified or alternative graduation criteria must include an Administrator as the Local Education Administration (LEA) representative. Unless expressly exempted through the IEP process, a student with a disability must take the civics exam, see Section 11.a, above, at least once but is not required to successfully pass the exam in order to be eligible for graduation. A student with a disability who meets the requirements for graduation in the IEP as determined by the student's individualized education program team will be granted a diploma.

14. Credit and distribution of credit requirements may be waived by the BOARD for students enrolled in an alternative education program, as defined in Wisconsin statutes and administrative code, and who the BOARD determines have demonstrated a level of proficiency in the four core content areas and in physical education equivalent to that which the student would have attained had the student satisfied credit requirements.

15. Distribution of credit requirements may be waived for a student in accordance with their individually developed Differentiated Education Plan (DEP).
16. If a decision is made to deny graduation, over the objections of the student or parent/guardian, the student or parent/guardian may appeal the school's decision to the SUPERINTENDENT or his/her designee, whose decision shall be final.

s. 118.30

s. 118.33

04/28/14

06/27/16

06/26/17

04/29/19

04/20/2020