

Graduation Requirements and Academic Standards

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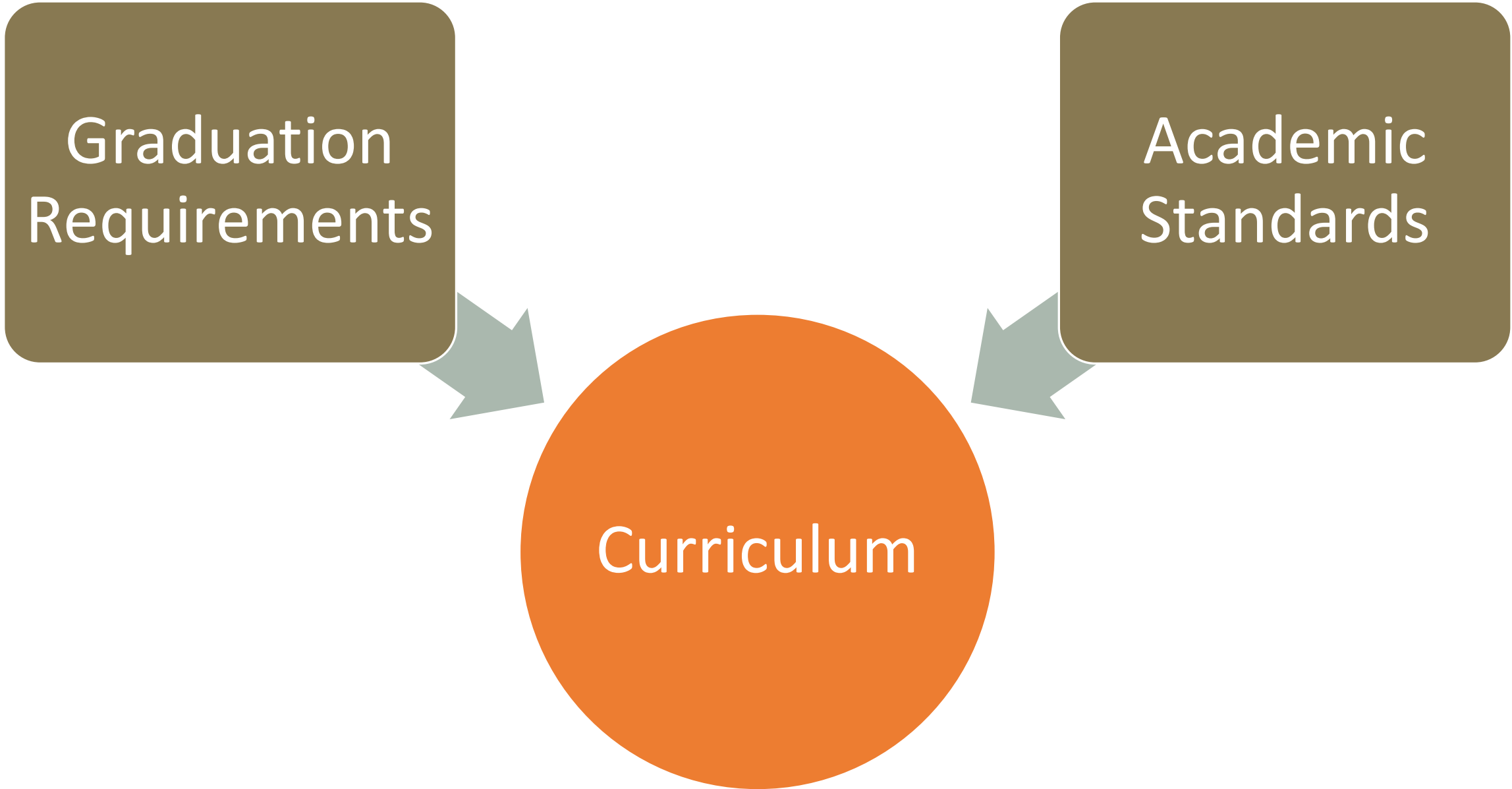
LEGISLATIVE ANALYST, MINNESOTA HOUSE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Presentation to Education Policy Committee

January 31, 2023

Themes

- State and local
 - State: Statutes, Department of Education
 - Local: Districts, charter schools
- Graduation requirements
- Academic standards
- Curriculum



Graduation requirements

State

- Credits in subject areas
- Understand academic standards

Local

- Credits in subject areas
- Understand academic standards
- Other

State credit requirements

4 language
arts

3 math

3 science

3.5 social
studies

1 art

7 electives

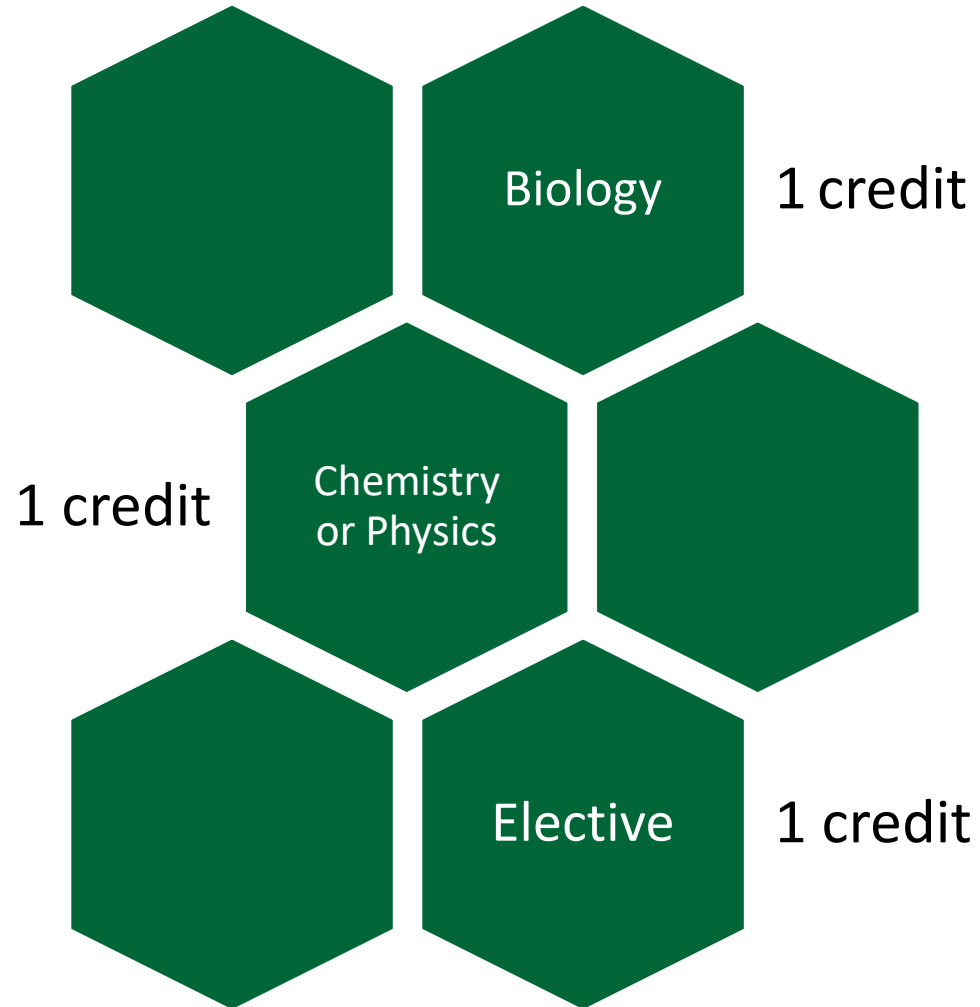
- At least 21.5 credits
- Must satisfy all academic standards

"Credits"

- Definition- section 120B.024, subd. 4

Subd. 4. **Credit.** "Credit" means the determination by the local school district that a student has successfully completed an academic year of study or mastered the applicable subject matter.

3 Science credits



3.5 Social studies credits

U.S. history

Geography

Government
and
citizenship

World history

Economics

Credit equivalencies examples

- 1 career and technical education (CTE) credit may fulfill 1 math or arts credit requirement
- 1 computer science credit may fulfill a math credit requirement
- See section 120B.024

Local credit requirements vary

Additional
credits

Community
service

Projects

Semesters,
trimesters,
quarters

St. Paul

- 66 required credits + 20 elective credits = 86 total credits
- St. Paul is on a quarter system, which affects how credits are counted

Source:

<https://www.spps.org/Page/34883>

Graduation Credit Requirements for College and Career Readiness (Starting with the Class of 2025)

GRADUATION CREDITS REQUIRED

By Minnesota Department of Education and Saint Paul Public Schools

English Language Arts	16 credits
4 credits per year x 4 years	
• 1 year of English 9 • 1 year of English 10 • 1 year of English 11 • 1 year of English 12	
Social Studies	14 credits
• 1 Year of World History • 1 Semester of Human Geography • 1 Year of U.S. History • 1 Semester of Government • 1 Semester of Economics	
Math	12 credits
4 credits per year x 3 years	
• 3 full years of mathematics, to include content from Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 or beyond	
Science	12 credits
4 credits per year x 3 years	
• 1 Year of Science • 1 Year of Biology • 1 Year of Chemistry or Physics	
Arts	4 total credits
• 2 Semesters of Performing or Visual Arts	
Physical Education	2 total credits
• 1 Semester of Physical Education	
Health	2 total credits
• 1 Semester of Health, Ind & Community	
Career & Technical Education	2 total credits
• 1 Semester of a Career and Technical Education course	
Critical Ethnic Studies	2 total credits
• 1 Semester of Critical Ethnic Studies	

St. Croix Preparatory Academy

- 24.5 Credits
- 50 hours of community service

SCPA Graduation Requirements

While the State of Minnesota requires students to take 21.5 credits per year to graduate, St. Croix Preparatory Academy requires its students to take 24.5 credits to graduate.

COURSE	Required By	
	STATE OF MN	ST. CROIX PREP
English	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Social Studies	3.5	4
Science	3	3
World Languages	Local Decision	2
Arts	1	2
Health/PE	Local Decision	1
Career & Tech Ed	Local Decision	0
Electives	7	4
TOTAL	21.5	24.5

Source: https://stcroixprep.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SCPA_SchoolProfile_2017-18_FinalForEmail.pdf

Park Rapids

Trimester credits calculated differently

- D. Three credits of science, including at least: (a) one credit of biology; (b) one credit of chemistry or physics; and (c) one elective credit of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy (i) all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) all other academic standards in science; 3-year credit will equal 9 Park Rapids Trimester credits
- E. Three and three $\frac{2}{3}$ credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies; 3.67-year credit will equal 11 Park Rapids Trimester credits

Source: <https://www.parkrapids.k12.mn.us/cms/lib/MN02207558/Centricity/Domain/91/613-%20Graduation%20Requirements.pdf>

Tests

- State assessments - Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)
 - ARE NOT a state graduation requirement
- Civics test
 - IS a state graduation requirement
 - 50 questions from citizenship exam
 - Passing is not required for graduation
- Local requirements may vary

Academic standards

Definition, section 120B.018, subd. 2:

Subd. 2. **Academic standard.** "Academic standard" means a summary description of student learning in a required content area under section 120B.021 or elective content area under section 120B.022.

Required academic standards

Language
arts

Math

Science

Social
studies

Physical
education

Health

Arts

Elective standards

Career and
technical
education (CTE)

World
languages

Standards development

- Clear, concise, objective, measurable, and grade-level appropriate
- Not require a specific teaching methodology or curriculum
- Consistent with the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Minnesota

Standards revision

- Technology and information literacy standards
- Alignment with career and college readiness, and advanced work in subject area
- Contributions of Minnesota American Indian Tribes and communities
- MCAs must be aligned to revised standards

Standards development



Science standards

- Adopted in 2021
- 2021 - legislature suspended implementation of academic standards until June 1, 2023
- Full implementation in the 2024-25 school year

Standards Review Timeline

Standards Committee meetings are held at the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), 1500 Hi otherwise noted.

2018

March 30-April 23: Standards Committee applications accepted

May 18: Standards Committee members announced on department website

August 1-2: Full Committee Meeting –MDE Conference Center A, Room 14

August 3: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center B, Room 16

September 19: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center A, Room 13

October 3: Full Committee Meeting – Bell Museum, 2088 Larpenteur Avenue West, St. Paul

November 1: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center B, Room 17 and 18

November 9-26: Public Review and Comment Period, Draft 1

December 12: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center A, Room 14

2019

January 16: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center B, Room 15

February 6: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center B, Room 17 and 18

February 14-28: Public and Expert Review and Comment Period, Draft 2

March 20: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center A, Room 13 and 14

April 1: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center B, Room 16

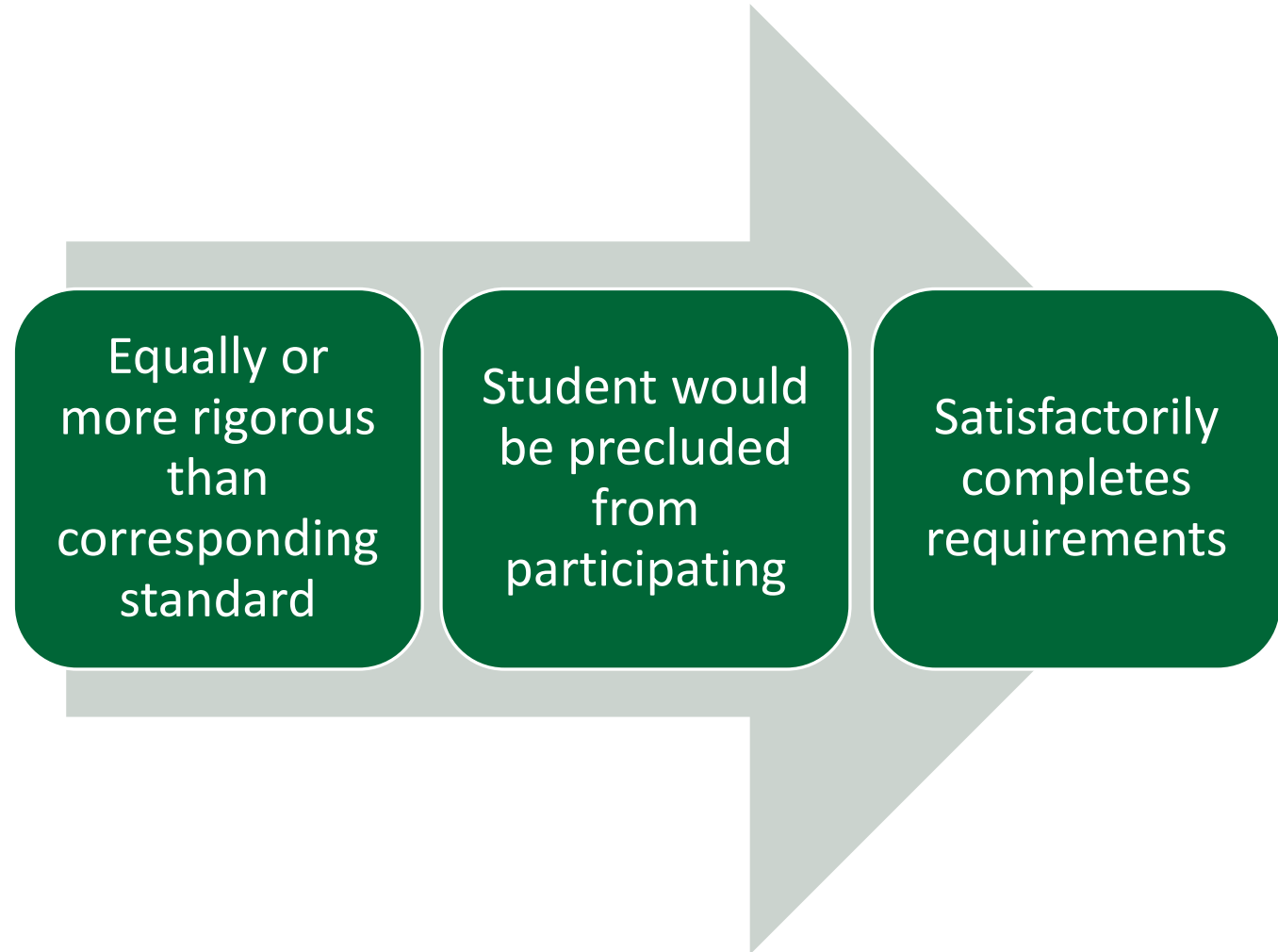
May 1: Full Committee Meeting – MDE Conference Center B, Room 16

May 10: Final draft sent to commissioner for approval

Example of a science standard

Grade	Strand	Substrand	Standard	Content Area	Benchmark
5	1 Exploring phenomena or engineering problems	1.2 Planning and carrying out investigations	1.2.1 Students will be able to design and conduct investigations in the classroom, laboratory, and/or field to test students' ideas and questions, and will organize and collect data to provide evidence to support claims the students make about phenomena.	Life Science	5L.1.2.1.3 Plan and conduct an investigation to obtain evidence that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water. (<i>P: 3, CC: 5, CI: LS1</i>) .

School board can waive standards



- Course of study
- Learning opportunity outside the curriculum
- Preparatory employment or postsecondary education program

Standards implementation

- Courses and curriculum
- Teaching methodology
- Professional development- content and instruction

Questions?



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