

## **620 CREDIT FOR LEARNING**

### **I. PURPOSE**

This policy recognizes student achievement that occurs in postsecondary enrollment option and other advanced enrichment programs. This policy also recognizes student achievement that 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. This policy addresses transfer of student credit from out-of-state, private, or home schools and online learning programs and to address how the charter school will recognize student achievement obtained outside of the charter school.

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

The policy of the charter school is to provide a process for awarding students credit toward graduation requirements for credits and grades students complete in other schools, postsecondary or higher education institutions, other learning environments, and online courses and programs.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Accredited school" means a school that is accredited by an accrediting agency, recognized according to Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.445 or recognized by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (Commissioner).
- B. "Concurrent enrollment" means nonsectarian courses in which an eligible pupil under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09, subdivision 5 or 5b, enrolls to earn both secondary and postsecondary credits, are taught by a secondary teacher or a postsecondary faculty member, and are offered at a high school for which the charter school is eligible to receive concurrent enrollment program aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.091.
- C. "Course" means a course or program.
- D. "Eligible institution" means a Minnesota public postsecondary institution, a private, nonprofit two-year trade and technical school granting associate degrees, an opportunities industrialization center accredited by an accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education, or a private, residential, two-year or four-year, liberal arts, degree-granting college or university located in Minnesota.
- E. "Nonpublic school" is a private school or home school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with the Minnesota compulsory attendance laws.
- F. "Weighted grade" is a letter or numerical grade that is assigned a numerical advantage when calculating the grade point average.

### **IV. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM OTHER SCHOOLS**

- A. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Minnesota Public Secondary Schools
  - 1. The charter school 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 6.50 credits from the charter school.

B. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Schools

1. The charter school 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 charter school 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 6.50 credits from the charter school.
  - 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 charter school's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the charter school for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements. Credit that does not fully align with the charter school'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 charter school 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 charter school 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 charter school determines that a course completed by a student at a non-accredited, nonpublic school is commensurate with charter school graduation requirements, credit shall be awarded, but the grade shall be "P" (pass).

- c. In the event the content of a course taken at a non-accredited, nonpublic school does not fully align with the content of the charter school's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the charter school for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements.
  - d. If no comparable course is offered by the charter school 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.
- C. A student must provide the school with a copy of the student's grades in each course taken for secondary credit under this policy, including interim or nonfinal grades earned during the academic term.

**V. POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT CREDIT**

- A. A student who satisfactorily completes a postsecondary enrollment options course or program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09 that has been approved as meeting the necessary requirements is not required to complete other requirements of the academic standards corresponding to that specific rigorous course of study.
- B. Secondary credits granted to a student through a postsecondary enrollment options course or program must be counted toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the charter school.
  - 1. Course credit will be considered by the charter school only upon presentation of a certified transcript from an eligible institution evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
  - 2. Seven (7) quarter or four semester postsecondary credits shall equal at least one (1) full year of high school credit. Fewer postsecondary credits may be prorated.
  - 3. When a determination is made that the content of the postsecondary 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 postsecondary 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 charter school for graduation, the charter school 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 charter school for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the charter school 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 postsecondary credits taken by a student, the charter school will record those credits on the student's transcript as credits

earned at a postsecondary institution.

- C. A list of the courses or programs meeting the necessary requirements may be obtained from the charter school.
- D. By the earlier of (1) three weeks prior to the date by which a student must register for charter school courses for the following school year, or (2) March 1 of each year, the charter school must provide up-to-date information on the charter school's website and in materials that are distributed to parents and students about the program, including information about enrollment requirements and the ability to earn postsecondary credit to all pupils in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11. To assist the charter school in planning, a pupil must inform the charter school by October 30 or May 30 of each year of the pupil's intent to enroll in postsecondary courses during the following academic term. A pupil is bound by notifying or not notifying the charter school by October 30 or May 30.
- E. Postsecondary institutions must notify a pupil's school as soon as practicable if the pupil withdraws from the enrolled course. The institution must also notify the pupil's school as soon as practicable if the pupil has been absent from a course for ten consecutive days on which classes are held, based on the postsecondary institution's academic calendar, and the pupil is not receiving instruction in their home or hospital or other facility.

#### **VI. CREDIT FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

Consistent with the career and technical pathways program, a student in grade 11 or 12 who is employed by an institutional long-term care or licensed assisted living facility, a home and community-based services and supports provider, a hospital or health system clinic, or a child care center may earn up to two elective credits each year toward graduation under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.024, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (8), at the discretion of the enrolling charter school. A student may earn one elective credit for every 350 hours worked, including hours worked during the summer. A student who is employed by an eligible employer must submit an application, in the form or manner required by the charter school, for elective credit to the charter school in order to receive elective credit. The charter school must verify the hours worked with the employer before awarding elective credit.

#### **VII. ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDIT**

- A. The charter school 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 charter school.
- 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 charter school.
- 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 charter school for graduation, the charter school 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 charter school for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the charter school will notify the Commissioner and request a determination of the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.

#### **VIII. WEIGHTED GRADES**

- A. The charter school does not offer weighted grades.
- B. The charter school will update its website prior to the beginning of each school year with a listing of the courses for which a student may earn a weighted grade.

#### **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 executive director within five (5) 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 executive director as to the award of credits or grades shall be a final decision by the charter school and shall not be appealable by the student or student's parent or guardian except as set forth in Paragraph IX.D. below.
- D. If a student disputes the number of credits granted by the charter school for a particular postsecondary enrollment course, or advanced academic credit course, the student may appeal the charter school's decision to the Commissioner. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
- E. At any time during the process, the building principal or executive director 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 and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.14 (Advanced Academic Credit)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 (Nonpublic Education Council)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03, Subd. 9 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.094 (Online Instruction Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 124E.07 (Board of Directors)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0660 (Academic Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12 [Language Arts])

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.07 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Arts Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Science Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.13 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (Charter School Mission Statement)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (Charter School Curriculum and Instruction Goals)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 614 (Charter School 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 (Charter School System Accountability)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 624 (Online Instruction)