

**MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
RURAL VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

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DATE REVISED: February 18, 2016 POLICY TITLE: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
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Specific graduation requirements for Rural Virtual Academy (RVA), under the direction of the Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD) Board of Education (BOE) and RVA Governance Board, will be published each year in the RVA Student Handbook. Any changes in the requirements shall be approved by the MAPSD Board of Education and the RVA Governance Board prior to implementation.

This policy only pertains to those students enrolled in the RVA through open enrollment or who reside within the boundaries of the MAPSD. This policy is not applicable for RVA students enrolled through a consortium district.

In order to graduate from the RVA, students:

- Must complete twenty-four (24) credits of study and at least three years of high school. In addition to the 15.5 credits required by state statute, the RVA will require 8.5 elective credits. Students who intend to graduate in less than four years of high school must also meet the requirements outlined in RVA-IKFA.
- May earn high school credit towards graduation in grades 7 and/or 8 as outlined in the policy RVA-IGHA.
- Who participate in at least 95 percent and 90+ hours of a school sponsored sports season, organized physical activity or another recognized state or nationally sanctioned sport may fulfill a .5 credit per semester towards their total 1.5 credits of physical education by fulfilling the requirements outlined in policy RVA-IGHB.
- All regular education students must pass the State's Civics Test requirement. Students with disabilities are required to take the test but are not required to pass.
- Beginning with the graduating class of 2026, must complete a minimum of 0.5 credits of personal financial literacy.
- Must complete a minimum of 8 hours of community service for every year they are enrolled in the RVA unless otherwise deemed inappropriate by the RVA administrator or their designee.
- Allowed to take a maximum of nine credits per school year, excluding summer school. Students electing to take summer school courses for advancement may take a maximum of one credit. Students who are deemed to be credit deficient are allowed to exceed the maximum number of credits in any given year per RVA administrator or their designee's prior approval.
- Allowed to take college level courses under the State of Wisconsin's Start College Now (SCN) and Early College Credit Program (ECCP). A maximum of 18 credits

in either program, or in combination, will be allowed to be earned unless all other graduation requirements have been met. If all other graduation requirements have been met, then it will be left to the discretion of the RVA Principal or designee to approve additional SCN and/or ECCP credits up to 18 per year. Accumulated SCN and/or ECCP credits cannot exceed 36 in total over the period a student is eligible for SCN or ECCP. The RVA Principal or designee shall determine whether the college course is comparable to a course offered at the RVA, whether it satisfies graduation requirements and what, if any, high school credits are to be awarded to the student. The student must meet the college's requirements and pre-requisites of the course(s) for which the student has applied. Students enrolled in a college approved credit class under either SCN or ECCP will receive .25 high school credit for each one credit of college coursework successfully completed. All grades earned may be included in the student's high school transcript and be factored into the student's GPA.

- Allowed to take "dual credit" courses offered by the RVA and taught by RVA teachers. Students taking "dual credit" courses are able to earn the assigned number of college credits as well as 0.5 high school credits per semester.
- Study abroad programs which have received prior board approval may be substituted for one of the required three years of enrollment. Students will be required to meet the RVA's graduation requirements. Course work and grades earned by enrolled students as a result of district approved study abroad programs will be reviewed by the administration and guidance officials to determine if they reflect comparable local course work requirements. If comparable, that course work will be incorporated into the transcript being noted as earned outside of the district on a pass/fail basis and will apply toward graduation requirements. Such course work will not be used in determining the student's GPA.

Students enrolled in RVA from any participating consortium school district may have different graduation requirements. Graduation requirements for students from a consortium school district will need to meet the minimum basic requirements of the RVA in combination with their consortium school board's graduation policy. All students must reference consortium school district policy to ensure all requirements are met in order to graduate and receive a diploma from their consortium school district. Specific courses and/or other graduation requirements in a consortium district which are not available to be taken through the RVA, can have equivalent substitutes approved with the permission of the consortium school counselor and/or administration. If schedules, class size and other factors allow, specific courses can also be taken in-person within the consortium school district.

The RVA Principal or their designee shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the graduation policy. The RVA Principal or their designee shall determine whether a student has satisfied the criteria in this policy. RVA high school graduation decisions may be appealed to the district administrator of the consortium district or to the RVA Administrator for all RVA students attending through open enrollment or who are residents of the MAPSD. In the event that there is a disagreement regarding the procedure followed to determine the student's eligibility for a diploma, it may be appealed to the RVA Governance Board for a final determination.

CROSS REFERENCE: RVA-IKFA, RVA-IGHA, RVA-IGHB

LEGAL REFERENCE: 118.33, 121.02(l)(p) Wis. Stats. & PI 18.03, Wis. Admin. Code