

MAPC Position Statement  
May 04, 2007

Graduation Requirements – Number of Credits

MAPC believes that the current requirement of 28 credits for high school graduation in Manitoba should remain.

Students taking a full course load of study for four years, in most schools, currently have the potential of earning 32 credits if they successfully complete all courses attempted. This allows them to complete the compulsory requirements as well as a variety of optional courses. The options may include such subjects as French, Sciences, Arts, and a variety of courses in a vocational program.

Maintaining the 28 credit requirement will not limit those students who have the ability and ambition to strive for more than the minimum 28. It is not uncommon for many graduates to have several more credits on their high school transcript than the minimum required. Those who want to truly excel will exceed the 32 credits obtained through their regular full timetable.

MAPC believes that increasing the minimum credits required for graduation to 30 may have several significant implications. We believe this will be a barrier to many students who already struggle to earn 28 credits in four years. Increasing this by two more credits will mean those students will either need to return to high school for a fifth year, or decide not to complete their high school studies.

Students may feel increased pressure, knowing that if they fail a course, this will increase their likelihood of not graduating in four years of high school. This may discourage students from attempting courses that they perceive as being more difficult as the consequence for failure would be much greater than it is now.

*Rationale:*

*MAPC would like to be able to share this position, as representative of its members, with our education partners (including the Minister of Education), and the media.*