



## *From the Cabinet*

*By FPS Associate Superintendent Dr. Robert Grosz*

### **Empowering Our Students: Aligning Graduation Requirements for Success**

In our continuous journey towards educational excellence and equity, Fargo Public Schools is committed to evaluating and adapting our academic frameworks to best serve our students. After thoughtful consideration and strategic planning, we are making a change to our graduation requirements, effective for the 2024-25 school year. This adjustment is aimed at enhancing flexibility for our students and aligning our educational practices with our strategic objectives, ultimately fostering a more supportive and impactful learning environment.

Traditionally, Fargo Public Schools has set the bar high, requiring students to earn 24 credits to graduate – two more than the state-mandated 22 credits. This included an additional credit in Physical Education (PE) and an extra credit in elective courses. While these requirements were established with our students' best interests in mind, our ongoing analysis and strategic alignment efforts have led us to a significant insight: by adjusting our graduation requirements, we can open up more opportunities for our students to achieve and exceed their educational goals.

#### **The New Path Forward**

Starting in the 2024-25 school year, we will align our graduation requirements with the state's mandate of 22 credits. This change is not about reducing the educational rigor or opportunities for our students. Rather, it's about refining our focus – prioritizing strategic outcomes that directly contribute to our students' success. This adjustment will afford our students greater flexibility in their schedules, allowing them to explore a broader array of academic and career interests and to engage more deeply in courses that align with their future aspirations.

#### **Strategic Reallocation for Enhanced Outcomes**

This revision in graduation requirements will also enable us to reallocate resources more effectively, ensuring that we are investing in areas that directly impact the outcomes outlined in our Strategic Plan. By doing so, we are not only working towards our goal of increasing graduation rates, but also enhancing our support for students to graduate Choice Ready, fully prepared for the next steps in their educational journeys.

#### **Looking Ahead: Aligning with Choice Ready Requirements**

Our commitment to our students' success is unwavering. As we implement these changes, we will also embark on a comprehensive review of our graduation requirements in collaboration with a dedicated team of educators during the 2024-25 school year. Our aim is to ensure that our



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requirements are in full alignment with the North Dakota Choice Ready standards, further empowering our students to graduate fully prepared for their futures.

## **A Commitment to Our Community**

We want to assure our community that these changes are made with the best interests of our students at heart. There is no intention for a reduction in force; instead, we see this as an opportunity to reallocate our valued staff and resources to better meet our strategic goals and improve outcomes for all students.

## **For Our Students and Parents**

To our students and parents, especially those who have already registered for courses next year: we encourage you to speak with your school counselor as soon as possible to discuss how these changes may affect your course selections. Our counselors are here to support you in making the most of your educational journey with Fargo Public Schools.

## **Conclusion**

In Fargo Public Schools, our mission is Educating and Empowering all Students to Succeed. These changes to our graduation requirements are a strategic step towards fulfilling that mission – ensuring that all students have the opportunities and support they need to thrive. Together, we are building a future where every student is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and readiness to achieve their highest aspirations.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our shared mission.

