208 DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to emphasize the importance of the policy-making role of the School Board and provide the means for it to be an ongoing effort.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Formal guidelines are necessary to ensure the school community that the school system responds to its mission and operates in an effective, efficient, and consistent manner. A set of written policies shall be maintained and modified as needed. Policies should define the desire and intent of the School Board and should be in a form that is sufficiently explicit to guide administrative action.

A. "Adopted" is the date when a policy was initially approved by the School Board.

B. "Reviewed" is the date that a policy was evaluated and approved by the School Board without any modifications.

C. "Revised" is the date that a policy was evaluated and approved by the School Board with modifications.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY

A. The school board has jurisdiction to legislate policy for the school district with the force and effect of law. School district policy provides the general direction for the school district while delegating policy implementation to the administration.

B. The school district's policies provide guidelines and goals to the school community. The policies are the basis for the guidelines and directives by the administration. The school board shall determine the effectiveness of policies by evaluating periodic reports from the administration.

C. Policies may be proposed by a school board member, employee, student or resident of the school district. Proposed policies or ideas shall be submitted to the superintendent for review prior to possible placement on the school board agenda.

IV. ADOPTION AND REVIEW OF POLICY

A. The school board has shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two school board meetings. The proposals shall be distributed and public comment will be allowed at both meetings.

B. The final action taken to adopt the proposed policy shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the school board at a meeting after public input was twice offered. The policy will be effective on the latter of the date of passage or the date stated in the motion.

C. In an emergency, a new or modified policy may be adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the school board in a single meeting. A statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The policy adopted in an emergency shall expire within one year following the emergency action unless the policy adoption procedure stated above is followed and the policy is reaffirmed. The school board shall have discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency.

D. If a policy is ~~modified~~ revised with minor, technical changes that do not affect the substance of the policy the school board directs school district staff to incorporate the technical revisions in the relevant policy. If a policy is revised ~~or~~ because of a legal change over which the school board has no control, the modified policy may be approved at one meeting at the discretion of the school board.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF AND ACCESS TO POLICY

A. The superintendent shall be responsible for implementing school board policies, other than the policies that cover how the school board will operate. The superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines and directives to provide greater specificity and consistency in the process of implementation. These guidelines and directives, including employee and student handbooks, shall be subject to annual review and approval by the school board.

B. Each school board member shall have access to school district policies. A copy of the school district policies will be posted on the District website and accessible to the public at the District Office.

C. The superintendent, employees designated by the superintendent, and individual school board members shall be responsible for keeping the policy manuals current.

D. The school board shall review policies at least once every three years. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing a system for periodic review, addressing approximately one third of the policies annually. In addition, the school board shall review the following policies annually: 506 Student Discipline; 722 Public Data Requests; and 806 Crisis Management Policy.

E. When no school board policy exists to provide guidance on a matter, the superintendent is authorized to act appropriately under the circumstances keeping in mind the educational philosophy and financial condition of the school district. Under such circumstances, the superintendent shall advise the school board of the need for a policy and present a recommended policy to the school board for approval.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 1 (School District Powers)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 1 (School Board Powers)

Cross References: Policy 305 (Policy Implementation)

ISD 194 Policy 208
Adopted: November 26, 2013
Revised: May 10, 2016
Revised: April 22, 2025