

513 STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND PROGRAM DESIGN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents, and students regarding student promotion, retention, and program design.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board expects all students to achieve an acceptable level of proficiency. Parental assistance, tutorial and remedial programs, counseling and other appropriate services shall be coordinated and used to the greatest extent possible to help students succeed in school.

A. Promotion

Students who achieve at a level deemed acceptable by local and state standards shall be promoted to the next grade level each year.

B. Retention

Students who do not achieve at a level deemed acceptable by local and state standards shall be retained at the current grade level, when professional staff and parents feel that it is in the best interest of the student. Scholastic ability and achievement, physical development, maturity, cultural norms, emotional factors as well as attendance and age shall be considered.

C. Program Design

1. The superintendent, with participation of the professional staff and parents, shall develop and implement programs to challenge students that are consistent with the needs of students at every level. A process to assess and evaluate students for the program assignment shall be developed in coordination for such programs. All programs will be aligned with creating comprehensive achievement and civic readiness.
2. The school district may identify students, locally develop programs and services addressing instructional and affective needs, provide staff development, and evaluate programs to provide gifted and talented students with challenging and appropriate educational programs and services.
3. The school district must adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying students for participation in gifted and talented programs and services consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11. The guidelines should include the use of:
 - a. multiple objective criteria; and
 - b. assessments and procedures that are valid and reliable, fair, and research based. Assessments and procedures should be sensitive to under-represented groups, including, but not limited to, low-income, minority, twice-exceptional, and English learners.

4. The school district must adopt procedures for the academic acceleration of gifted and talented students. These procedures will include how the district will:
 - a. assess a student’s readiness and motivation for acceleration; and
 - b. match the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to a student to achieve the best type of academic acceleration for that student.

5. The school district must adopt procedures consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.02 for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted or talented learners consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2). The procedures must be sensitive to under-represented groups.

Legal References: 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.15 (Gifted and Talented Program)
 Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendents)
 Minn. Stat. § 124D.02 (School Board Powers; Enrollment)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 614 (School District 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 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)
 Policy 6240 (Demonstration of Mastery for Credit)

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