



# Newsletter

## February 2025

### Model Policy Updates and Corrections

A .zip file of the updated policies (clean and redlined versions for school districts and for charter schools) can be found on the MSBA website:

1. Click on **Services**
2. Click on **Policy Services**
3. Scroll down to **Policy Services Newsletter**

#### Updates as of February 21, 2025:

##### Technical Updates

The updates to the model policies in the chart below do not represent changes in policy. Rather, the updates are purely technical (corrections to citations). MSBA recommends that school boards permit staff to make these updates. Formal board action would not be necessary under Model Policy 208 to make these changes, though school boards have the authority to require formal board action if they so choose.

| Model Policy Number | Update                      |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 516                 | Corrects formatting         |
| 621                 | Update statutory reference  |
| 906                 | Rearranges Arts. II and III |

##### Substantive Updates

The recommended policy changes described below involve substantive changes to the model policies.

| Model Policy Number | Update  |
|---------------------|---|
| 413                 | Updates definition of "disability" to reflect amended Minnesota law                               |
| 425                 | Clarifies whether the board or school administration appoints staff development committee members |

These materials are for informational use only and are not to be construed as legal advice. If legal advice is needed, the school district's legal counsel should be contacted. While current at the time it was created, this document may be later superseded by legislative or other action.

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 512 | Removes language potentially at odds with Minnesota Statutes 121A.80 (Student Journalism; Student Expression) |
| 704 | Updates GASB guidance on asset capitalization   |

**413:** The definition of “disability” in Minnesota Statutes 363A.03 has been updated. This is a legal change that a school board could choose to adopt in a single meeting under Model Policy 208.

**425:** Minnesota law requires that school boards “establish” a Staff Development Committee. The law does not explicitly state who appoints the committee members. School boards can clarify who appoints the committee members by choosing to adopt or not adopt the revision.

**512:** By adopting the proposed deletion in this policy, school boards can reduce potential confusion when implementing the student journalism law enacted in 2024.

**704:** School districts requested that MSBA revise this policy to align with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) guidance.

**Upcoming Policy Updates**

MSBA is in the process of updating the following policies. We anticipate that these policy updates should be available soon.

| Model Policy Number | Update                         |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 530                 | Update on immunization records |

**Instructions to access the entire Policy Manual online:**

1. Please visit [www.mnmsba.org](http://www.mnmsba.org).
2. Go to the Resources tab and select Policies
3. Log into the Members area (access is limited to Policy Services subscribers)
4. Click on a desired policy
5. A clean version (e.g., Policy 418) and a redlined version (e.g., Policy 418 Redline) can be found at the bottom of the policy page, below the Legal References and Cross References.

**NOTE:** If you experience trouble viewing the **redlined** version, please go to the Review tab on Microsoft Word and ensure that “All Markup” is clicked in the Tracking section. If the “Simple Markup” box is checked, one cannot see the redlined changes.

**Redlines:** To clean up the policy library, we removed redlines that are more than ten years old to reduce possible confusion. The removed redlines are available upon request.

The current and recent Policy Services Newsletters can be found on the MSBA website under Services—Policy Services,

If you have questions about Policy Services, how to navigate the online Policy Reference Manual, or the content of the model policies, please contact Terry Morrow at (507) 934-8126 or (800) 324-4459 or by email at [tmorrow@mnmsba.org](mailto:tmorrow@mnmsba.org)

Jaymyson Sillman ([jsillman@mnmsba.org](mailto:jsillman@mnmsba.org)) can assist if technological issues arise related to accessing the model policies or the revisions.

