

[NOTE: This state law has been repealed. MSBA SUGGESTS REPEAL OF THIS POLICY]

699 - ASSURANCE OF MASTERY

In compliance with Minnesota Statute 123.742, Subdivision 3D, "Assurance of Mastery," it is the policy of Independent School District No. 832 that personnel will establish an Assurance of Mastery (AOM) program, containing the necessary procedures, components and goals to provide all students the opportunity to achieve minimum competency in the areas of communications and mathematics. Additional curricular areas will be included as part of the AOM program as recommended by curriculum committees and the PER Committee and approved by the Board of Education.

A. DEFINITIONS

1. AOM refers to Assurance of Mastery State Legislation which requires all school districts to identify students who are not making sufficient progress towards minimum competency.
2. Minimum Competency refers to those student skills determined to be the minimum prerequisites skills necessary for effective participation and grade level instruction. Minimum competency is determined to be present based upon successful performance on school district criterion referenced assessments.
3. Communications refers to the curricular areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. For the purposes of this policy, the definition is limited to reading.
4. Mathematics refers to the general mathematics competencies, exclusive of those introduced in senior high, elective courses of pre-algebra through calculus.
5. Modified Learning Plan (MLP) refers to a plan developed as a result of a conference to provide additional, instructional methods and materials to remediate deficiencies as identified in the assessment.

B. IDENTIFICATION

1. School district criterion referenced tests, designed to measure the mastery of the minimum prerequisite skills necessary for effective participation in grade level instruction, will be developed for use during grades two, four, seven and ten.
2. The Assistant Superintendent may authorize alternative assessment procedures for students with special needs or in unique circumstances. Parents will be notified in regard to an alternative assessment and the results of the evaluation.

C. MODIFIED LEARNING PLAN

Students in grades two, four, seven and ten who are identified as not making sufficient progress towards mastery (exclusive of students enrolled in special education and ESL), will have a Modified Learning Plan developed. The plan will be initiated following a conference with the parents or guardians to discuss the student's educational needs. This will include the student if age appropriate.

1. The MLP is designed to develop those skills which were not mastered on the criterion referenced test. The plan may include a variety of strategies including some or all of the following:
 - Changes in student grouping patterns.
 - Independent learning packets.
 - Computer assisted, tutorial drill.
 - Summer school remedial programs.
 - Additional or modified classroom instruction.
 - Placement in appropriate secondary elective courses.
 - Peer tutoring.

D. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

1. The Assistant Superintendent will coordinate required assessments with building principals.
2. Those students who demonstrate mastery prior to the scheduled testing period will not be required to take the test again.
3. Principals or her or his designee, will conference with the parents of a student requiring a MLP to discuss the student's achievements and needs and coordinate the development of the MLP.
4. The school, parents and student share responsibility for assurance of mastery.
 - a. Responsibility of School - Identification, instruction, monitoring and reporting of student progress.
 - b. Responsibility of Parent or Guardian - Support, motivation, conferencing and monitoring of student progress.
 - c. Responsibility of Student - Effort and cooperation.
5. Student progress will be monitored by school district adopted criterion referenced tests and supplemented by end of unit tests and teacher observation.
6. Students who initially do not achieve AOM may be scheduled for an assessment at any time. The parent will be notified of the results. Students participating in a MLP will be reassessed at least annually.

7. In the event that the parent or guardian do not desire that their son or daughter continue with an MLP, they can waive the school districts's responsibility for Assurance of Mastery on those identified, basic skills. This will be done in writing and applies only to the specific, Assurance of Mastery skills and does not include the adopted, required curriculum for all students or the required courses for high school graduation.

E. SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Independent School District No. 832 recognizes and meets the assessment and instructional needs of students enrolled in special education and the Limited English Proficiency programs. The student's IEP will supplant any requirements of the Modified Learning Plan.

F. REPORTAGE

Independent School District No. 832's annual PER report will include a brief description of its Assurance of Mastery program. Periodic reviews will be coordinated by the Assistant Superintendent and a summary prepared for the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education.

ADOPTED – June 29, 1987

REVISED – August 14, 1997