

603 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

[Note: Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 requires school districts to adopt a comprehensive long-term strategic plan that addresses the review of curriculum, instruction, student achievement, and assessment. MSBA/MASA Model Policies 601, 603, and 616 address these statutory requirements. In addition, MSBA/MASA Model Policies 613-615 and 617-620 provide procedures to further implement the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 120B.11.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for continuous review and improvement of the school curriculum.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Curriculum development shall be directed toward the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the education program of the school district.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The superintendent shall be responsible for curriculum development and for determining the most effective way of conducting research on the school district's curriculum needs and establishing a long-range curriculum development program. Timelines shall be determined by the superintendent that will provide for periodic reviews of each curriculum area.

IV. DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. The school board must establish an advisory committee to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.

B. The District Advisory Committee, to the extent possible, must reflect the diversity of the district and its school sites, include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents, and provide translation to the extent appropriate and practicable. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents must comprise at least two-thirds of committee members.

C. The District Advisory Committee must pursue community support to accelerate the academic and native literacy and achievement of English learners with varied

needs, from young children to adults, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.59, subdivisions 2 and 2a.

D. The school district may establish site teams as subcommittees of the District Advisory Committee.

E. The District Advisory Committee must recommend to the school board

1. rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals and measures consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.11, subdivision 1a, 120B.022 subdivisions 1a and 1b, and 120B.35;
2. district assessments;
3. means to improve students' equitable access to effective and more diverse teachers;
4. strategies to ensure the curriculum is rigorous, accurate, antiracist, culturally sustaining, and reflects the diversity of the student population;
5. strategies to ensure that curriculum and learning and work environments validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate the cultural and community strengths of all racial and ethnic groups; and
6. program evaluations.

F. School sites may expand upon district evaluations of instruction, curriculum, assessments, or programs.

V. SCHOOL SITE TEAM

Each school must establish a site team to develop and implement strategies and education effectiveness practices to improve instruction, curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site. The site team must include an equal number of teachers and administrators and at least one parent. The site team advises the board and the advisory committee about developing the annual budget and creates an instruction and curriculum improvement plan to align curriculum, assessment of student progress, and growth in meeting state and district academic standards and instruction.

VI. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

[Note: In light of changes in Minnesota law regarding curriculum, MSBA encourages school districts to consider deleting Article VI, Section A or revising it to reflect local curriculum development processes. Literacy planning is now addressed in new model policy 621: Literacy and the READ Act.]

- A. Students who do not meet or exceed Minnesota academic standards, as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school, shall be informed that admission to a public school is free and available to any resident under 21 years of age or who meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.20, subdivision 1(c). A student's plan under this section shall continue while the student is enrolled.
- B. The superintendent shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of all state-mandated curriculum changes, as well as recommended discretionary changes, and for periodically presenting recommended modifications for school board review and approval.
- C. The superintendent shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to curriculum development.

- ~~A. The superintendent shall be responsible for curriculum development and for determining the most effective way of conducting research on the school district's curriculum needs and establishing a long range curriculum development program. Timelines shall be determined by the superintendent that will provide for periodic reviews of each curriculum area.~~
- ~~B. A district advisory committee shall provide assistance at the request of the superintendent. The advisory committee membership shall be a reflection of the community and, to the extent possible, shall reflect the diversity of the district and its school sites, and shall include parent, teacher, support staff, student, community residents and administration representation, and shall provide translation to the extent appropriate and practicable. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents shall comprise at least two thirds of advisory committee members.~~
- ~~C. Within the ongoing process of curriculum development, the following needs shall be addressed:
 - ~~1. Provide for articulation of courses of study from kindergarten through grade twelve.~~
 - ~~2. Identify minimum objectives for each course and at each elementary grade level.~~
 - ~~3. Provide for continuing evaluation of programs for the purpose of attaining school district objectives.~~
 - ~~4. Provide a program for ongoing monitoring of student progress.~~~~

- ~~5. Provide for specific, particular and special needs of all members of the student community.~~
- ~~6. Develop a local literacy plan to have every child reading at or above grade level no later than the end of grade 3, including English learners, and teachers providing comprehensive, scientifically based reading instruction consistent with law.~~
- ~~7. Integrate required and elective course standards in the scope and sequence of the district curriculum.~~
- ~~8. Meet all applicable requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education and the federal law.~~
- ~~D. The superintendent shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of all state-mandated curriculum changes, as well as recommended discretionary changes and to for periodically presenting recommended modifications for school board review and approval.~~
- ~~E. The superintendent shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to curriculum development.~~

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.10 (Findings; Improving Instruction and Curriculum)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Reading Proficiently no Later than the End of Grade 3)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.125(f) (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)

Minn. Stat. § 124D.59 (Definitions)

Minn. Rules Part 3500.0550 (Inclusive Educational Program)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0800-3501.0815 (Academic Standards for the Arts)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation-Required Assessment for Diploma) (repealed Minn. L. 2013, Ch. 116, Art. 2, § 22)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)

20 U.S.C. § 6301. *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References: Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedures)
Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP, Section 504 Plans and LEP Students)
Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)
~~Policy 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards)~~
Policy 618 (Assessment of Standard Achievement)
Policy 619 (Staff Development for Standards)
Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)
Policy 621 (Record Keeping/Reporting/Advising of Student Achievement)
Policy 623 (Mandatory Summer School Instruction)