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*Adopted: 11/5/98*

## **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 statements 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.

### **III. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The school board has jurisdiction to legislate policy with the force and effect of law for the school district. School district policy provides the school board's 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 guidelines and directives created 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 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 comments to the board 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 the two meetings at which public input was received. The policy will be effective on the later 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 with minor changes that do not affect the substance of the policy 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. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to implement school board policies and to 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 the school district policies. School district policies shall be made available for reference purposes to other interested persons in the main office of each school and in the central school district office. The manual will also be available on the school district's website.
- C. The superintendent, employees designated by the superintendent, and individual school board members shall be responsible for keeping the policies current.
- D. The school board shall review policies at least once every six years. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing a system of 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
  - 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 mission, 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)