

617 SCHOOL DISTRICT ENSURANCE OF PREPARATORY AND HIGH SCHOOL STANDARDS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all locally adopted preparatory and high school content standards of the Profile of Learning are addressed directly in both curriculum and assessment for all students, including those with special needs.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the school district is to implement the Minnesota Graduation Standards, including local adoption of the former Profile of Learning content standards, during the transition to the implementation of the required Minnesota Academic Standards.
- B. This policy ensures that all students who qualify and elect to satisfy their graduation requirements will continue to receive instruction, curriculum and assessment which address the preparatory and high school content standards This policy also defines how technology will be integrated across student learning areas. In implementing the preparatory and high school content standards, the school district will work to improve the scope and sequences of curriculum, research-based instructional skills of teachers and other district staff who work with students, and alternative assessments of student achievement while making the transition to the required Minnesota Academic Standards.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- A. Preparatory Content Standards
 - 1. As a component of the District's Curriculum Review Process, staff will review all current state content standards.
 - 2. Upon review, the curriculum review committee will either merge standards into "power standards" or prioritize the standards into two categories of "essential standards" or "enduring understandings".
 - a. Essential standards are those that are determined must be learned in a given year and at a given level.
 - b. Enduring understandings are those standards considered "enhancing".
 - 3. Power standards and/or essential standards will be agreed upon by the curriculum review committee as will the enduring understandings.
 - 4. These standards will align with state standards and be published in school documents (e.g. website, newsletters, etc.)
- B. High School Content Standards

The school district will follow Policy 613, Graduation Requirements, as it implements the graduation standards. This policy ensures that all students will receive instruction, curriculum and assessment which addresses the high school content standards of the Profile of Learning in all learning areas and that the uses of technology are integrated across student learning areas.

C. Assessment of Content Standards

Content standards shall be assessed through formative and summative subject specific assessments and will be reported in the student information system and as final grades.

D. Additional Requirements

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public Schools requires additional work in some subjects to qualify for graduation. Please see Policy 613 for more details.

E. Special Needs Students

Students with special needs will generally be expected to meet all graduation standards at the same level as their peers, except when the IEP team determines the graduation requirements inappropriate for a specific student.

F. Evaluation and Remediation of Student Difficulties and Achievement

1. Targeted Services will be considered for all students struggling to achieve.
2. At the high school level, a systematic system of credit recovery will be in place to assist students to achieve upon failure of a course.
3. Waseca Public Schools has an Alternative Learning Center (ALC) program for students in grades 7-12 to assist students for whom the traditional setting does not seem to be helping students achieve. The ALC will be a choice program for Waterville-Elysian-Morristown students.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota’s Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World’s Best Workforce)
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 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)
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)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
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 616 (School District System Accountability)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)