



603 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the development of course offerings for students and to establish methods for continuous improvement of the district’s instructional curriculum. This policy ensures that all students have access to high-quality, standards-aligned curriculum that promotes academic achievement and prepares students for career and/or college success.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The district is committed to providing a rigorous, coherent, and relevant curriculum that supports best instructional practices, and meets or exceeds both state and district academic standards. The curriculum must be designed to engage all learners, promote critical thinking, and prepare students to be responsible, informed, and productive citizens.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Academic standard” means a summary description of student learning in a required content area or elective content area;
- B. “Benchmark” means specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band;
- C. “Curriculum” means district or school adopted programs and written plans for providing students with learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge, skills, and career and college readiness;
- D. “Experiential learning” means learning for students that includes career exploration through a specific class or course or through work-based experiences such as job shadowing, mentoring, entrepreneurship, service learning, volunteering, internships, other cooperative work experience, youth apprenticeship, or employment.
- E. “Instruction” means methods of providing learning experiences that enable students to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements including applied and experiential learning. Including the instructional program, the instructional approach, and instructional materials.
- F. “Instructional Curriculum” means the district or school-adopted programs, written plans and instructional practices designed to provide all K–12 students with meaningful, standards-based learning experiences. It integrates both the content to be taught (curriculum) and the methods of delivery (instruction), ensuring alignment with the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards and graduation requirements, through a variety of

approaches, including applied and experiential learning.

- G. “Instructional Materials” means the materials used to advance student proficiency, these materials must accommodate every student, including English Language learning and students with disabilities.
- H. “Textbook” means a curriculum-aligned book, or workbook that provides structured lessons and content to support student learning in a specific subject and grade level.

IV. INSTRUCTION

- A. Instruction will be provided for all courses required for each grade level by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and courses required in all elective subject areas;
- B. The instructional approach will advance student proficiency, promote critical thinking, and will be nonsexist, multicultural, and free of bias;
- C. The school board, at its discretion, may adopt additional courses for instruction at any grade level;
- D. Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22 Subd.9 (Knowledge and skills) and Minnesota Statutes section 120B.022 Subd.1 (Elective standards) outline that instruction must be provided in at least the following subject areas:
 - 1. basic communication skills including reading and writing, literature, and fine arts;
 - 2. mathematics and science;
 - 3. social studies, including history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship;
 - 4. health and physical education;
 - 5. career and technical education:
 - a) The school district must establish and regularly review its own standards for career and technical education (CTE) programs. Standards must align with CTE frameworks developed by the Department of Education, standards developed by national CTE organizations, or recognized industry standards.

Instruction, textbooks, and materials must be in the English language. Another language may be used pursuant to sections 124D.59 to 124D.61.

- E. Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22 Subd.9 (Knowledge and skills) and Minnesota Statutes section 120B.022 Subd.1 (Elective standards) outline that instruction may be provided in at least the following subject area:
 - 1. world languages:

- a) A district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.
- F. Instruction will be planned for optimal benefit, taking into consideration the financial condition of the school district and other relevant factors. Each course plan should contain goals and objectives, materials, minimum student competency levels, and methods for student evaluation.
- G. The superintendent and the director of teaching and learning have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to instruction.
- H. Instructional Materials
 - 1. Instructional materials must advance student proficiency;
 - 2. Materials must accommodate every student, including English learners and students with disabilities;

V. CURRICULUM

- A. While the school board retains its authority to make final decisions on the selection of textbooks and instructional materials, the school board recognizes the expertise of the professional staff and the vital need of such staff to be primarily involved in the recommendation of textbooks and instructional materials. Accordingly, the school board delegates to the superintendent or designee and the director of teaching and learning the responsibility to direct the professional staff in formulating recommendations to the school board on textbooks and other instructional materials.
- B. In reviewing textbooks and instructional materials during the selection process, the professional staff shall select materials that:
 - 1. support the goals and objectives of the education programs;
 - 2. consider the needs, age, and maturity of students;
 - 3. foster respect and appreciation for cultural diversity and varied opinion;
 - 4. fit within the constraints of the school district budget;
 - 5. are in the English language. Another language may be used, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 124D.59 to 124D.61;
 - 6. permit grade-level instruction for students to read and study America's founding documents, including documents that contributed to the foundation or maintenance of America's representative form of limited government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system, and patriotism; and

7. do not censor or restrain instruction in American or Minnesota state history or heritage based on religious references in original source documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records.
- C. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing procedures and guidelines to establish an orderly process for the review and recommendation of textbooks and other instructional materials by the professional staff. Such procedures and guidelines shall provide opportunity for input and consideration of the views of students, parents, and other interested members of the school district community. This procedure shall be coordinated with the school district's curriculum development effort and may utilize advisory committees.
- D. Curriculum Alignment
1. All curriculum must align with Minnesota standards and benchmarks and the district's established standards and benchmarks; and
 2. Curriculum shall be vertically and horizontally articulated to ensure consistency across grade levels and content areas.
- E. Curriculum Review & Development
1. The district's curriculum development and review cycle is aligned with MDE's Curricula Review Cycle and is outlined in ISD 200 Policy 606.1PR Curriculum Development and Review;
 2. Through the district's Curriculum Advisory Committee, the development and review procedure shall involve educators, administrators, parents/guardians, community members, students and where appropriate, consultants; and
 3. New curriculum proposals must be evidence-based and demonstrate effectiveness in increasing student achievement.
- F. Parent and Community Involvement
1. The district encourages parent and community input in curriculum decisions through the district's Curriculum Advisory Committee.
- G. Teacher Autonomy and Professional Development
1. Teachers are expected to deliver the adopted curriculum with integrity while using their professional expertise to differentiate instruction; and
 2. Professional development will be provided to support implementation of new or revised curriculum.
- H. Monitoring and Accountability

1. The district shall use multiple measures (including student assessments, surveys, and observations) to evaluate the effectiveness of all instruction and curriculum, taking into account strategies and best practices for improving student outcomes; and
2. Curriculum implementation shall be monitored by building and district-level administrators.

VI. SELECTION OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The superintendent shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of progress on the part of staff and others involved in the textbook and other instructional materials review and selection process.
- B. The superintendent shall present a recommendation to the school board on the selection of textbooks and other instructional materials after completion of the review process as outlined in this policy.
- C. The district shall have a procedure to document all core instructional materials and resources utilized by staff and students.
- D. Gift resources will be judged by the same criteria and will be accepted or rejected based on those criteria.
- E. Textbooks and other instructional materials will be updated by removing resources no longer appropriate or accurate and replacing resources that have been lost or damaged.

VII. REQUIRED ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- A. The following subject areas are required in Minnesota for statewide accountability:
 1. language arts;
 2. mathematics, encompassing algebra II, integrated mathematics III, or an equivalent in high school, and to be prepared for the three credits of mathematics in grades 9 through 12, the grade 8 standards include the completion of algebra;
 3. science, including earth and space science, life science, and the physical sciences, including chemistry and physics;
 4. social studies, including history, geography, economics, and government and citizenship that includes civics;
 5. physical education;
 6. health, for which locally developed academic standards apply; and
 7. the arts.

- B. Elementary and middle schools must offer at least three and require at least two of the following five arts areas: dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts. High schools must offer at least three and require at least one of the following five arts areas: media arts, dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

VIII. PARENTAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

The school district procedure for a parent/guardian, or an adult student (18 years of age or older), to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a student and, if there is an objection to the content, to make reasonable arrangements for alternative instruction are outlined in ISD 200 Policy 604.1PR (Parent/Guardian or Adult Student Objection to Instructional Content and Request for Alternative Instruction).

- A. Alternative instruction may be provided by the parent/guardian, or adult student if the alternative instruction offered by the school district does not meet the concerns of the parent, guardian, or adult student.

The school board is not required to pay for the costs of alternative instruction provided by a parent/guardian, or adult student.

- B. School personnel may not impose an academic or other penalty upon a student merely for arranging alternative instruction under this section. School personnel may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work.

IX. CPR AND AED INSTRUCTION

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.236 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic External Defibrillator Instruction, the school district will provide one time cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) instruction as part of its grade 7 to 12 curriculum.

X. COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

- A. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.125, the school district assists all students beginning in grade 9, through its Pathways program to explore their educational, college, and career interests, aptitudes, and aspirations, and develops a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment. All students' plans must:
 - 1. provide a comprehensive plan to prepare for and complete career and college-ready curriculum by meeting state and local academic standards and developing career and employment-related skills such as team work, collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking, and good work habits;
 - 2. emphasize academic rigor and high expectations and inform the student, and the student's parent/guardian if the student is a minor, of the student's achievement level

score on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school;

3. help students identify interests, aptitudes, aspirations, and personal learning styles that may affect their career and college-ready goals and postsecondary education and employment choices;
 4. set appropriate career and college-ready goals with timelines that identify effective means for achieving those goals;
 5. help students access education and career options;
 6. integrate strong academic content into career-focused courses and applied and experiential learning opportunities and integrate relevant career-focused courses and applied and experiential learning opportunities into strong academic content;
 7. help identify and access appropriate counseling and other supports and assistance that enable students to complete required coursework, prepare for postsecondary education and careers, and obtain information about postsecondary education costs and eligibility for financial aid and scholarship;
 8. help identify collaborative partnerships among pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools, postsecondary institutions, economic development agencies, and local and regional employers that support students' transitions to postsecondary education and employment and provide students with applied and experiential learning opportunities; and
 9. be reviewed and revised at least annually by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the school district to ensure that the student's course-taking schedule keeps the student on track for graduation, making adequate progress to meet state and district academic standards and high school graduation requirements and with a reasonable chance to succeed with employment or postsecondary education without the need to first complete remedial coursework.
- B. The school district may develop grade-level curricula or provide instruction that introduces students to various careers, but must not require any curriculum, instruction, or employment-related activity that obligates an elementary or secondary student to involuntarily select or pursue a career, career interest, employment goals, or related job training.
- C. Educators must possess the knowledge and skills to effectively teach all English learners in their classrooms. School districts must provide appropriate curriculum, targeted materials, professional development opportunities for educators, and sufficient resources to enable English learners to become career and college ready.

- D. When assisting students in developing a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education and employment, districts must recognize the unique possibilities of each student and ensure that the contents of each student’s plan reflect the student’s unique talents, skills, and abilities as the student grows, develops, and learns.
- E. If a student with a disability has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or standardized written plan that meets the plan components herein, the IEP satisfies the requirement, and no additional transition plan is needed.
- F. 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

Legal References: *Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)*
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.022 (Elective Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.101 (Curriculum)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students’ Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.20 (Parental Curriculum Review)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.236 (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic External Defibrillator Instruction)

Cross References: *ISD 200 Policy 604.1 (Procedure for Parent/Guardian or Adult Student’s Objection to Instructional Content and Request for Alternative Instruction)*
ISD 200 Policy 606.1PR (Curriculum Review)

Policy Reviewed: 06.05.2025
Policy Adopted:
Policy Revised:

This statement signifies that the current policy fully integrates all mandatory components outlined in the MSBA Model Policies 604 and 606.