

Policy Committee

Monday, November 28, 2022 6:00 PM

Waconia City Hall, 201 S Vine Street, Waconia, MN 55387

1. **Memorials for Deceased Students and Staff DRAFT** **Presenter:** Paul Sparby, WHS Principal

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MEMORIALS FOR DECEASED STUDENTS OR STAFF

I. PURPOSE

It is recognized that the loss of a member of the school community is deeply felt by students, staff, and families. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that ISD110 will support staff, students, and families impacted by death by assisting them with connections to appropriate school and community resources. Because it is recognized that memorial decisions made immediately in the aftermath of a crisis or death may be made without full consideration of the potential implications for students, staff, families, and the community, ISD110 will provide a process for memorial decision-making.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Memorials:** Objects, activities, or donations to remember an event or deceased person(s).
- B. **Building Crisis Team:** A designated group of staff members within each school building who plan and implement support specific to the crisis event.
- C. **Crisis:** Any natural disaster or unexpected event that is perceived as extremely negative, generates feelings of helplessness, powerlessness, and/or entrapment, and may occur suddenly, unexpectedly, and without warning.
- D. **Impact:** The magnitude of the potential loss or seriousness of the crisis.
- E. **District Support Team:** A designated group of staff members who develop and execute district-wide procedures specific to the crisis event.

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Memorial activities expressed at school need to be coordinated and approved through the Building Crisis Team. The Building Crisis Team will assist families and students in selecting memorial activities that are appropriate and assist students in healthy bereavement.
- B. In recognition that schools are designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for the memorializing of students or staff. Schools should focus on maintaining the regular schedule, structure, and routine.

- C. Temporary school memorials, as approved by school administration who will consult with the Director of Buildings and Grounds. The memorials may be displayed for one week or until the day of the funeral, whichever is sooner and will then be offered to the family. Selling of memorabilia items on school grounds is prohibited. Allowable temporary memorials are banners and pictures displayed in an area accessible to all students but not in an area where all students will have to view the memorial. Viewing of the memorial needs to be optional. Memorials that may spontaneously arise on lockers and desks should be transferred to the designated area. Memorial symbols displayed by individual students or staff on school grounds will be limited to one week after death, or to the day after the funeral, whichever is sooner and will then be offered to the family.
- D. Permanent memorials for deceased students and staff will be limited to endowments, scholarships, and books or items with educational significance. Scholarship and endowment memorials may be established one time, or in the form of a perpetual award, with a description of the purpose of the endowment or scholarship. Existing memorials established prior to the implementation of this policy will not be affected.
- E. Schools should strive to treat all deaths in the same way. Having a different approach for death by suicide reinforces prejudice associated with suicide and may be deeply painful to the deceased's family and friends. However, memorials following suicide are particularly important to monitor. Schools can play an important role in channeling the energy and passion of the students (and greater community) in a positive direction, balancing the community's need to grieve with the impact that the proposed activity will likely have on students, particularly on those who might be vulnerable to suicide contagion.
- F. Whenever possible, schools should communicate with the student's family and friends to coordinate memorialization with the family in the interest of identifying a meaningful, safe approach to acknowledging the loss. Make sure to be sensitive to the cultural needs of the deceased and family.
- G. School district facilities will not be used for memorial services or funerals. However, the superintendent, in consultation with the District Support Team, has the discretion to consider school-wide memorial activities when a crisis event has a significant impact on a majority of students, staff, and community.
- H. Other possible memorial activities include:

1. **Yearbooks:** A student or staff member who has died may be acknowledged the year the death occurred. Information shall be limited to the student's name, photo, dates of birth and death, and school activities in which the student participated.
2. **Commemorative Events:** A commemorative event may be established and held in the name of the deceased student or staff member. Activities cannot be held during the school day and should be sponsored by a class, club, or activity in which the deceased student or staff member participated. Advertisements of events must occur outside the school day. It is recommended that commemorative events utilize community partners (e.g., employers of the deceased, faith communities, etc.)
3. **Graduation Recognition:** One symbol representing all deceased members of a graduating class, such as a plant or bouquet of flowers, may be present on stage. A member of the school administration can also direct the audience in a moment of silence to collectively recognize deceased members of the graduating class.
4. **Moment of Silence Recognition:** A 'moment of silence' may be used following the death of a student or staff member to honor their memory. School-wide moments of silence should occur within 2 school days following notification of the death. Moments of silence are also approved for use at ISD110 Board of Education meetings, co-curricular events in which the deceased participated, and community-based events.

Legal References:

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 706 (Acceptance of Gifts)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 801 (Equal Access to School Facilities)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management)
ISD 110 Policy 809 (Naming Rights)

2. **Carryover from 10/24 committee meeting:**

2.A. 603 Curriculum Development

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603

Orig. 1995

Revised: _____

Rev. 2022~~19~~

603 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

[Note: ~~Minn.-Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section 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 ~~618~~620 provide procedures to further implement the requirements of ~~Minn.-Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section 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

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.

~~IV.B. District Advisory Committee~~

A. _____ ~~The school board shall establish approve the guidelines for member representation of 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, shall 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 shall comprise at least two-thirds of advisory committee members.~~

C. _____ ~~The district advisory committee shall 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 district may establish site teams as subcommittees of the district advisory committee.~~

E. _____ ~~The district advisory committee shall recommend to the school board~~

1. _____ ~~rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals and measures consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.11, subdivision 1a, section 120B.022, subdivisions 1a and 1b, and section 120B.35,~~

2. _____ ~~district assessments,~~

3. ~~means to improve students' equitable access to effective and more diverse teachers, and~~

4. ~~program evaluations.~~

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

~~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.~~

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-Superintendent [or designee] 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

A. 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 federal law.

~~BD.~~ Students identified as not reading at grade level by the end of kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia. Students in grade 3 or higher who demonstrate a reading difficulty to a classroom teacher must be screened

Commented [1]: Reach out to Terry to get clarification on this language.

Commented [2R2]: this is required to have equal number of admin and teachers as it is statutory requirement

for characteristics of dyslexia, unless a different reason for the reading difficulty has been identified. See [Minn. Stat. § Minnesota Statutes section 120B.12](#), Subd. 2.

- CE.** 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 [Minn. Stat. § Minnesota Statutes section 120A.20](#), Subd. 1(c). A student's plan under this section shall continue while the student is enrolled.
- DF.** The superintendent [**or designee**] 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.
- EG.** The superintendent shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to curriculum development.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120B.10 (Findings; Improving Instruction and Curriculum)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Reading Proficiently ~~n~~No Later than the End of Grade 3)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125(f) (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment)
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~~ [3501.0820](#) (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:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
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 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards)~~
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 619 (Staff Development for Standards)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 623 (Mandatory Summer School Instruction)

2.B. Updates

2.B.1. 210 Conflict of Interest - School Board
Members

210 CONFLICT OF INTEREST – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect legal requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to observe state statutes regarding conflicts of interest and to engage in school district business activities in a fashion designed to avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school board to contract for goods and services in conformance with statutory conflict of interest laws and in a manner that will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance thereof. Accordingly, the school board will contract under the statutory exception provisions only when it is clearly in the best interest of the school district because of limitations that may exist on goods or services otherwise available to the school district.

III. GENERAL PROHIBITIONS AND RECOGNIZED STATUTORY EXCEPTIONS

- A. A school board member who is authorized to take part in any manner in making any sale, lease, or contract in his or her official capacity shall not voluntarily have a personal financial interest in that sale, lease, or contract or personally benefit financially therefrom.
- B. In the following circumstances, however, the school board may as an exception, by unanimous vote, contract for goods or services with a school board member of the school district:
 - 1. In the designation of a bank or savings association, in which a school board member is interested, as an authorized depository for school district funds and as a source of borrowing, provided such deposited funds are protected in accordance with Minn. Stat. Ch. 118A. Any school board member having said interest shall disclose that interest and the interest shall be entered upon the minutes of the school board. Disclosure must be made when such bank or savings association is first designated as a depository or source of borrowing, or when such school board member is elected, whichever is later. Disclosure serves as notice of the interest and must only be made once;
 - 2. The designation of an official newspaper, or publication of official matters therein, in which the school board member is interested when it is the only newspaper complying with statutory requirements relating to the designation or publication;
 - 3. A contract with a cooperative association of which the school board member

is a shareholder or stockholder but not an officer or manager;

4. A contract for which competitive bids are not required by law. A contract made under this exception will be void unless the following procedures are observed:
 - a. The school board must authorize the contract in advance of its performance by adopting a resolution setting out the essential facts and determining that the contract price is as low as or lower than the price at which the goods or services could be obtained elsewhere.
 - b. In the case of an emergency when the contract cannot be authorized in advance, payment of the claims must be authorized by a like resolution wherein the facts of the emergency are also stated.
 - c. Before a claim is paid, the interested school board member must file with the clerk of the school board an affidavit stating:
 - (1) The name of the school board member and the office held;
 - (2) An itemization of the goods or services furnished;
 - (3) The contract price;
 - (4) The reasonable value;
 - (5) The interest of the school board member in the contract; and
 - (6) That to the best of the school board member's knowledge and belief, the contract price is as low as, or lower than, the price at which the goods or services could be obtained from other sources.
 5. A school board member may contract with the school district to provide construction materials or services, or both, when the sealed bid process is used. When the contract comes before the school board for consideration, the interested school board member may not vote on the contract. (*Note: This section applies only where the school district has a population of 1,000 or less according to the last federal census.*)
 6. A school board member may rent space in a public facility at a rate commensurate with that paid by other members of the public.
- C. In the following circumstances, the school board may as an exception, by majority vote at a meeting where all school board members are present, contract for services with a school board member of the school district: A school board member may be newly employed or may continue to be employed by the school district as an employee where there is a reasonable expectation on July 1, or at the time the

contract is entered into or extended, that the amount to be earned by that school board member under that contract or employment relationship, will not exceed \$8,000 in that fiscal year. If the school board member does not receive majority approval to be initially employed or to continue in employment at a meeting where all school board members are present, that employment must be immediately terminated and that school board member will have no further rights to employment while serving as a school board member in the school district.

- D. The school board may contract with a class of school district employees, such as teachers or custodians, where the spouse of a school board member is a member of the class of employees contracting with the school board and the employee spouse receives no special monetary or other benefit that is substantially different from the benefits that other members of the class receive under the employment contract. In order for the school board to invoke this exception, it must have a majority of disinterested school board members vote to approve the contract, direct the school board member spouse to abstain from voting to approve the contract, and publicly set out the essential facts of the contract at the meeting where the contract is approved.

IV. LIMITATIONS ON RELATED EMPLOYEES

- A. The school board can hire or dismiss teachers only at duly called meetings. Where a husband and wife, brother and sister, or two brothers or sisters, constitute a quorum, no contract employing a teacher may be made or authorized except upon the unanimous vote of the full school board.
- B. The school board may not employ any teacher related by blood or marriage to a school board member, within the fourth degree as computed by the civil law, except by a unanimous vote of the full school board.

V. CONFLICTS PRIOR TO TAKING OFFICE

A school board member with personal financial interest in a sale, lease, or contract with the school district which was entered before the school board member took office and presents an actual or potential conflict of interest, shall immediately notify the school board of such interest. It shall thereafter be the responsibility of the school board member to refrain from participating in any action relating to the sale, lease, or contract. At the time of renewal of any such sale, lease, or contract, the school board may enter into or renew such sale, lease, or contract only if it falls within one of the enumerated exceptions for contracts relating to goods or services provided above and if the procedures provided in this policy are followed.

VI. DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER A CONFLICT OF INTEREST EXISTS

The determination as to whether a conflict of interest exists is to be made by the school board. Any school board member who has an actual or potential conflict shall notify the school board of such conflict immediately. The school board member shall thereafter cooperate with the school board as necessary for the school board to make its

determination.

- Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 3 (Teacher Hiring, Dismissal)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.195 (Board Member’s Right to Employment)
Minn. Stat. § 471.87 (Public Officers; Interest in Contract; Penalty)
Minn. Stat. § 471.88, Subds. 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, and 21 (Exceptions)
Minn. Stat. § 471.89 (Contract, When Void)
Op. Atty. Gen. 437-A-4, March 15, 1935
Op. Atty. Gen. 90-C-5, July 30, 1940
Op. Atty. Gen. 90-A, August 14, 1957
- Cross References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 101 (Legal Status of the School Board)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 209 (Code of Ethics)
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 1, School District Governance, Powers and Duties

Policy adopted: January 2001, revised November 2007 / revised April 2009
Policy Reviewed: September 2017

Independent School District No. 110
Waconia, MN

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 210

Orig. 1995

Revised: _____

Rev. 202208

210 CONFLICT OF INTEREST – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect legal requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to observe state statutes regarding conflicts of interest and to engage in school district business activities in a fashion designed to avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school board to contract for goods and services in conformance with statutory conflict of interest laws and in a manner that will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance thereof. Accordingly, the school board will contract under the statutory exception provisions only when it is clearly in the best interest of the school district because of limitations that may exist on goods or services otherwise available to the school district.

III. GENERAL PROHIBITIONS AND RECOGNIZED STATUTORY EXCEPTIONS

- A. A school board member who is authorized to take part in any manner in making any sale, lease, or contract in his or her official capacity shall not voluntarily have a personal financial interest in that sale, lease, or contract or personally benefit financially therefrom.
- B. In the following circumstances, however, the school board may as an exception, by unanimous vote, contract for goods or services with a school board member of the school district:
 - 1. In the designation of a bank or savings association, in which a school board member is interested, as an authorized depository for school district funds and as a source of borrowing, provided such deposited funds are protected in accordance with Minn. Stat. Ch. Minnesota Statutes chapter 118A. Any school board member having said interest shall disclose that interest and the interest shall be entered upon the school board minutes ~~of the school board~~. Disclosure ~~must shall~~ be made when such bank or savings association is first designated as a depository or source of borrowing, or when such school board member is elected, whichever is later. Disclosure serves as notice of the interest and ~~must~~ need only be made once;
 - 2. The designation of an official newspaper, or publication of official matters therein, in which the school board member is interested when it is the only newspaper complying with statutory requirements relating to the designation or publication;
 - 3. A contract with a cooperative association of which the school board member is a shareholder or stockholder but not an officer or manager;
 - 4. A contract for which competitive bids are not required by law. A contract made under this exception will be void unless the following procedures are observed:

- a. The school board ~~must~~ shall authorize the contract in advance of its performance by adopting a resolution setting out the essential facts and determining that the contract price is as low as or lower than the price at which the goods or services could be obtained elsewhere.
 - b. In the case of an emergency when the contract cannot be authorized in advance, payment of the claims must be authorized by a like resolution wherein the facts of the emergency are also stated.
 - c. Before a claim is paid, the interested school board member shall ~~must~~ file with the clerk of the school board an affidavit stating:
 - (1) The name of the school board member and the office held;
 - (2) An itemization of the goods or services furnished;
 - (3) The contract price;
 - (4) The reasonable value;
 - (5) The interest of the school board member in the contract; and
 - (6) That to the best of the school board member's knowledge and belief, the contract price is as low as, or lower than, the price at which the goods or services could be obtained from other sources.
 - 5. A school board member may contract with the school district to provide construction materials or services, or both, when the sealed bid process is used. When the contract comes before the school board for consideration, the interested school board member may not vote on the contract. (**Note:** *This section applies only when~~re~~ the school district has a population of 1,000 or less according to the last federal census.*)
 - 6. A school board member may rent space in a public facility at a rate commensurate with that paid by other members of the public.
- C. In the following circumstances, the school board may as an exception, by majority vote at a meeting ~~where~~ at which all school board members are present, contract for services with a school board member of the school district: A school board member may be newly employed or may continue to be employed by the school district as an employee ~~where~~ only if there is a reasonable expectation on July 1, or at the time the contract is entered into or extended, that the amount to be earned by that school board member under that contract or employment relationship, will not exceed \$~~208~~,000 in that fiscal year. If the school board member does not receive majority approval to be initially employed or to continue in employment at a meeting ~~where~~ at which all school board members are present, that employment ~~must be~~ immediately terminated and that school board member ~~will have~~ has no further rights to employment while serving as a school board member in the school district.
- [Note: The \$8,000 figure increased to \$20,000 effective July 1, 2022]**
- D. The school board may contract with a class of school district employees, such as teachers or custodians, ~~where~~ when the spouse of a school board member is a member

of the class of employees contracting with the school board and the employee spouse receives no special monetary or other benefit that is substantially different from the benefits that other members of the class receive under the employment contract. ~~In order for~~ For the school board to invoke this exception, it must have a majority of disinterested school board members vote to approve the contract, direct the school board member spouse to abstain from voting to approve the contract, and publicly set out the essential facts of the contract at the meeting ~~where-in which~~ the contract is approved.

IV. LIMITATIONS ON RELATED EMPLOYEES

- A. The school board ~~can~~ must hire or dismiss teachers only at duly called meetings. ~~Where~~ When a husband and wife, brother and sister, or two brothers or sisters, constitute a quorum, no contract employing a teacher may be made or authorized except upon the unanimous vote of the full school board.
- B. The school board may not employ any teacher related by blood or marriage to a school board member, within the fourth degree as computed by the civil law, except by a unanimous vote of the full school board.

V. CONFLICTS PRIOR TO TAKING OFFICE

A school board member with personal financial interest in a sale, lease, or contract with the school district which was entered before the school board member took office and presents an actual or potential conflict of interest, shall immediately notify the school board of such interest. It shall thereafter be the responsibility of the school board member to refrain from participating in any action relating to the sale, lease, or contract. At the time of renewal of any such sale, lease, or contract, the school board may enter into or renew such sale, lease, or contract only if it falls within one of the enumerated exceptions for contracts relating to goods or services provided above and if the procedures provided in this policy are followed.

VI. DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER A CONFLICT OF INTEREST EXISTS

The determination as to whether a conflict of interest exists is to be made by the school board. Any school board member who has an actual or potential conflict shall notify the school board of such conflict immediately. The school board member shall thereafter cooperate with the school board as necessary for the school board to make its determination.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 3 (~~Employment; Contracts; Termination~~)~~Teacher Hiring, Dismissal~~
Minn. Stat. § 123B.195 (Board Member's Right to Employment)
Minn. Stat. § 471.87 (Public Officers; Interest in Contract; Penalty)
Minn. Stat. § 471.88, Subds. 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, and 21 (Exceptions)
Minn. Stat. § 471.89 (Contract, When Void)
Op. Atty. Gen. 437-A-4, March 15, 1935
Op. Atty. Gen. 90-C-5, July 30, 1940
Op. Atty. Gen. 90-A, August 14, 1957

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 101 (Legal Status of the School Board)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 209 (Code of Ethics)
~~MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 1, School District Governance, Powers and Duties~~

2.B.2. 216 Anonymous Communications

Any complaint to be considered officially by the Board must be in writing and must be identified by author.

Anonymous correspondence will be reviewed by the appropriate school official.

Board Members will use their discretion to forward complaints received in written form to the Superintendent.

Cross Reference: Policy #514 (Bullying Prohibition) Sect. IV A.

Legal Reference: Minn. Stat § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)

Original Policy Adopted: July 2007

Revised: May 2016

Independent School District No 110

Waconia, MN

3. 600 Education Programs (cont'd)

3.A. 611 Homeschooling

611 HOME SCHOOLING

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and provide guidelines in accordance with state law for parents who wish to have their children receive education in a home school that is an alternative to an accredited public or private school.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Compulsory Attendance Law (Minn. Stat. § 120A.22) provides that the parent or guardian of a child is primarily responsible for assuring that the child acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship. (Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 1)

III. CONDITIONS FOR HOME SCHOOLING

The person in charge of a home school and the school district must provide instruction and meet the requirements specified in Minn. Stat. § 120A.22.

IV. IMMUNIZATION

The parent or guardian of a home-schooled child shall submit statements as required by Minn. Stat. § 121A.15, Subds. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 12, on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form, to the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides by October 1 of the first year of home schooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year. (Minn. Stat. § 121A.15, Subd. 8)

V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARD TESTS

Upon formal request, as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks (including a teacher's edition, guide, or other materials that accompany a textbook when the edition, guide, or materials are packaged physically or electronically with textbooks for student use), individualized instructional or cooperative learning materials (including teacher materials that accompany pupil materials), software or other educational technology, and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home-schooled child as provided in Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 and Minn. Rules Ch. 3540. The school district is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.40-123B.48 for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the school district will, at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, make the electronic component accessible to a resident student provided that the school district does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

VI. PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES

Upon formal request, as required by law, the school district will provide pupil support

services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home-schooled child as provided by Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 and Minn. Rules Ch. 3540. The school district is not required to expend an amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.40-123B.48 for any of these purposes.

VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Resident pupils who receive instruction in a home school (in which five or fewer students receive instruction) may fully participate in extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis as other public school students. (Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.36, Subd. 1, and 123B.49, Subd. 4)

VIII. SHARED TIME PROGRAMS

Enrollment in class offerings of the school district.

- A. A home-schooled child who is a resident of the school district may enroll in classes in the school district as a shared time pupil on the same basis as other nonpublic school students. The provisions of this policy shall not be determinative of whether the school district allows the enrollment of any pupils on a shared-time basis.
- B. The school district may limit enrollment of shared-time pupils in such classes based on the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building. The school board and administration retain sole discretion and control over scheduling of all classes and assignment of shared time pupils to classes.

[Note: The provisions of Article VIII. - Shared Time Programs do not make a determination as to whether Shared Time Programs should be offered to any pupil. However, home-schooled children are required to be treated the same as all other nonpublic school children.]

IX. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Activities

- 1. Minnesota State High School League-sponsored activities (in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school or the home school students are not residents of the school district).

A home school that is a member of the Minnesota State High School League may request that the school district enter into a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as provided in Minnesota State High School League Bylaw 403.00. The approval of such an arrangement shall be at the discretion of the school board.

- a. The home school must become a member of the Minnesota State

High School League in accordance with the rules of the Minnesota State High School League.

- b. The home school is solely responsible for any costs or fees associated with its application for and/or subsequent membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
- c. The home school is responsible for any and all costs associated with its participation in a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as well as any school district activity fees associated with the Minnesota State High School League activity.

- 2. Non-Minnesota State High School League activities in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school.

A home-schooled child may participate in non-Minnesota State High School League activities offered by the school district upon application and approval from the school district to participate in the activity and the payment of any activity fees associated with the activity. However, home school students may not be charged higher activity fees than other public school students. An approval shall be granted at the discretion of the school district.

B. Transportation Services

- 1. The school district may provide nonpublic nonregular transportation services to a home-schooled child.
- 2. The school district retains sole discretion and control and management of scheduling routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, and any other matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School Children)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (School Boards May Require Fees)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks, Individual Instruction Material, Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.86 (Equal Treatment - Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)

Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 (Textbooks, Individualized Instruction Materials,
Standardized Tests)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 510 (School Activities)

Policy Adopted: January 2004

Policy Revised: May 2006 / November 2012 / September 2017 / November 2020

Independent School District No. 110

Waconia, MN

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 611

Orig. 1996

Revised: _____

Rev. 202219

611 HOME SCHOOLING

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and provide guidelines in accordance with state law for parents who wish to have their children receive education in a home school that is an alternative to an accredited public or private school.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Compulsory Attendance Law (~~Minn. Stat. §~~Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22) provides that the parent or guardian of a child is primarily responsible for assuring that the child acquires knowledge and skills that are essential for effective citizenship. (~~Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 1~~)

III. CONDITIONS FOR HOME SCHOOLING

The person in charge of a home school and the school district must provide instruction and meet the requirements specified in Minnesota Statutes section~~Minn. Stat. §~~ 120A.22.

IV. IMMUNIZATION

The parent or guardian of a home-schooled child shall submit statements as required by ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ Minnesota Statutes section 121A.15, Subds. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 12, on the appropriate Minnesota Department of Education form, to the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides by October 1 of the first year of home schooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year. (~~Minn. Stat. § 121A.15, Subd. 8~~)

V. TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL, STANDARD TESTS

Upon formal request, as required by law, the school district will provide textbooks (including a teacher's edition, guide, or other materials that accompany a textbook when the edition, guide, or materials are packaged physically or electronically with textbooks for student use), individualized instructional or cooperative learning materials (including teacher materials that accompany pupil materials), software or other educational technology, and standardized tests and loan or provide them for use by a home-schooled child as provided ~~in Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 and Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 under state law.~~ The school district is not required to expend any amount for this purpose that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to ~~Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.40-123B.48 state law~~ for this purpose. If curriculum has both physical and electronic components, the school district will, at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, make the electronic component accessible to a resident student provided that the school district does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

VI. PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES

Upon formal request, as required by law, the school district will provide pupil support services in the form of health services and counseling and guidance services to a home-schooled child as provided ~~by Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 and Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 under state law.~~ The school

district is not required to expend an amount for any of these purposes that exceeds the amount it receives pursuant to ~~Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.40-123B.48 for any of these purposes.state law.~~

VII. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Resident pupils who receive instruction in a home school (in which five or fewer students receive instruction) may fully participate in extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis as other public school students. ~~(Minn. Stat. §§ 123B.36, Subd. 1, and 123B.49, Subd. 4)~~

VIII. SHARED TIME PROGRAMS

Enrollment in class offerings of the school district.

- A. A home-schooled child who is a resident of the school district may enroll in classes in the school district as a shared time pupil on the same basis as other nonpublic school students. The provisions of this policy shall not be determinative of whether the school district allows the enrollment of any pupils on a shared-time basis.
- B. The school district may limit enrollment of shared-time pupils in such classes based on the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building. The school board and administration retain sole discretion and control over scheduling of all classes and assignment of shared time pupils to classes.

[Note: The provisions of Article VIII. - Shared Time Programs do not ~~make a determination as to determine~~ whether Shared Time Programs should be offered to any pupil. However, home-schooled children are required to be treated the same as all other nonpublic school children.]

IX. OPTIONAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Activities

1. Minnesota State High School League-sponsored activities (in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school or the home school students are not residents of the school district).

A home school that is a member of the Minnesota State High School League may request that the school district enter into a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as provided in Minnesota State High School League ~~Bylaw 403.00~~bylaws. The approval of such an arrangement shall be at the discretion of the school board.

- a. The home school must become a member of the Minnesota State High School League in accordance with the rules of the Minnesota State High School League.
- b. The home school is solely responsible for any costs or fees associated with its application for and/or subsequent membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
- c. The home school is responsible for any and all costs associated with its participation in a cooperative sponsorship arrangement as well as any school district activity fees associated with the Minnesota State High School League activity.

2. Non-Minnesota State High School League activities in which six or more students receive instruction in the home school.

A home-schooled child may participate in non-Minnesota State High School League activities offered by the school district upon application and approval from the school board to participate in the activity and the payment of any activity fees associated with the activity. However, home school students may not be charged higher activity fees than other public school students. An approval shall be granted at the discretion of the school board.

B. Transportation Services

1. The school district may provide nonpublic nonregular transportation services to a home-schooled child.
2. The school board of the school district retains sole discretion and control and management of scheduling routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, and any other matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School Children)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (~~School Boards May Require~~ Authorized Fees)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks;~~L7~~ Individual Instruction or Cooperative Learning Material;~~L7~~ Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (~~Cocurricular and~~ Extracurricular Activities; Insurance)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.86 (Equal Treatment - Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Rules Ch. 3540 (~~Textbooks, Individualized Instruction Materials, Standardized Tests~~)Nonpublic Schools)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 510 (School Activities)

3.B. 613 Graduation Requirements

613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

[Note: The requirements set forth in this policy govern the graduation standards that Minnesota public schools must require for a high school diploma for all students.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth requirements for graduation from the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is that all students entering grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later must demonstrate, as determined by the school district, their satisfactory completion of the credit requirements and their understanding of academic standards. The school district must adopt graduation requirements that meet or exceed state graduation requirements established in law or rule.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Academic standard” means: (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, or the arts, or (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health, the arts, career and technical education, or world languages.
- B. “Credit” means a student’s successful completion of an academic year of study or a student’s mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district.
- C. “Section 504 Accommodation” means the defined appropriate accommodations or modifications that must be made in the school environment to address the needs of an individual student with disabilities.
- D. “Individualized Education Program” or “IEP” means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- E. “English language learners” or “ELL” student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

Director of Teaching & Learning shall be named the District Assessment Coordinator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the school board annually for approval.

V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, students' state graduation requirements, based on a longitudinal, systematic approach to student education and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation, include the following:

- A. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, as measured against a continuum of empirically derived, clearly defined benchmarks focused on students' attainment of knowledge and skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without the need for postsecondary remediation and which facilitates the monitoring of students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analysis of students' progress and performance levels, identification of students' academic strengths and diagnosis of areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and determination of students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student based on analysis of students' progress and performance data; and
- B. Consistent with this paragraph and Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (*see Policy 604, Section II.H.*), age-appropriate exploration and planning activities and career assessments to encourage students to identify personally relevant career interests and aptitudes and help students and their families develop a regularly reexamined transition plan for postsecondary education or employment without need for postsecondary remediation.
- C. Based on appropriate state guidelines, students with an IEP may satisfy state graduation requirements by achieving an individual score on the state-identified alternative assessments.
- D. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section must receive targeted, relevant, academically rigorous, and resourced instruction which may include a targeted instruction and intervention plan focused on improving the student's knowledge and skills in core subjects so that the student has a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without need for postsecondary remediation.
- E. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section and who are students in grade 11 or 12 and who are identified as academically ready for a career or college are actively encouraged by the school district to participate in courses and programs awarding college credit to high school students. Students are not required to achieve a specified score or level of proficiency on an assessment to graduate from high school.
- F. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Students beginning 8th grade in the 2012-2013 school year and later must successfully complete, as determined by the school district, the following high school level credits for graduation:

- A. Four credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
- B. Three credits of mathematics, including an algebra II credit or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
- C. An algebra I credit by the end of 8th grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics;
- D. Three credits of science, including at least: (a) one credit of biology; (b) one credit of chemistry or physics; and (c) one elective credit of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy (i) all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) all other academic standards in science;
- E. Three and one-half credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;
- F. One credit in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts; and
- G. A minimum of seven elective credits.
- H. Credit equivalencies
 - 1. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture education or business department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies under Paragraph E., above, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
 - 2. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state physical science, life science, earth and space science, chemistry, or physics academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the school district. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the school district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry or physics academic standards prior to graduation. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit

under Paragraph D., above.

3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph F., above.
4. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under Paragraph B., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
5. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a mathematics or science credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in mathematics or science.

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards:
 1. School District Standards, Health (K-12);
 2. School District Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12); and
 3. School District Standards, World Languages (K-12).
- B. Academic standards in health, world languages, and career and technical education will be reviewed on an annual basis.* A school district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

* Reviews are required to be conducted on a periodic basis. Therefore, this time period may be changed to accommodate individual school district needs.
- C. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required Graduation Standards in accordance with the standards developed by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE):
 1. Minnesota Academic Standards, English Language Arts K-12;
 2. Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12;
 3. Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12;
 4. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12; and
 5. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12.
- D. State standards in the Arts K-12 are available, or school districts may choose to develop their own standards.

- E. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except the very few students with extreme cognitive or physical impairments for whom an IEP team has determined that the required academic standards are inappropriate. An IEP team that makes this determination must establish alternative standards.

VIII. EARLY GRADUATION

Students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minn. Stat. § 120B.07, upon meeting the following conditions:

- A. All course or standards and credit requirements must be met;
- B. The principal or designee shall conduct an interview with the student and parent or guardian, familiarize the parties with opportunities available in post-secondary education, and arrive at a timely decision; and
- C. The principal's decision shall be in writing and may be subject to review by the superintendent and school board.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.024 (Graduation Requirements; Course Credits)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Involuntary Career Tracking Prohibited)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
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 3501.1300-3501.1345 (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: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and

Instruction Goals)

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)

Policy Adopted: July 2012

Revised Jan. 2016 / reviewed July 2020

Independent School District No. 110

Waconia, MN

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613

Orig. 1997

Revised: _____

Rev. 2022

613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth requirements for graduation from the school district.

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The policy of the school district is that all students ~~entering grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later~~ must demonstrate, as determined by the school district, their satisfactory completion of the credit requirements and their understanding of academic standards. The school district must adopt graduation requirements that meet or exceed state graduation requirements established in law or rule.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Academic standard" means: (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, or the arts, or (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health, the arts, career and technical education, or world languages.
- B. "Credit" means a student's successful completion of an academic year of study or a student's mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district.
- C. "Section 504 Accommodation" means the defined appropriate accommodations or modifications that must be made in the school environment to address the needs of an individual student with disabilities.
- D. "Individualized Education Program" or "IEP" means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.
- E. "English language learners" or "ELL" student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.

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Director of Teaching and Learning shall be named the District Assessment Coordinator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the school board annually for approval.

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- A. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, as measured against a continuum of empirically derived, clearly defined benchmarks

focused on students' attainment of knowledge and skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without the need for postsecondary remediation and which facilitates the monitoring of students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analysis of students' progress and performance levels, identification of students' academic strengths and diagnosis of areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and determination of students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student based on analysis of students' progress and performance data; and

- B. Consistent with this paragraph and Minnesota Statutes section 120B.125 (*see Policy 604, Section II.H.*), age-appropriate exploration and planning activities and career assessments to encourage students to identify personally relevant career interests and aptitudes and help students and their families develop a regularly reexamined transition plan for postsecondary education or employment without need for postsecondary remediation.
- C. Based on appropriate state guidelines, students with an IEP may satisfy state graduation requirements by achieving an individual score on the state-identified alternative assessments.
- D. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section must receive targeted, relevant, academically rigorous, and resourced instruction which may include a targeted instruction and intervention plan focused on improving the student's knowledge and skills in core subjects so that the student has a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without need for postsecondary remediation.
- E. Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section and who are students in grade 11 or 12 and who are identified as academically ready for a career or college are actively encouraged by the school district to participate in courses and programs awarding college credit to high school students. Students are not required to achieve a specified score or level of proficiency on an assessment to graduate from high school.
- F. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

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- B. Three credits of mathematics, including an algebra II credit or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
- C. An algebra I credit by the end of 8th grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics;
- D. Three credits of science, including at least: (a) one credit of biology; (b) one credit of chemistry or physics; and (c) one elective credit of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy (i) all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) all other academic standards in science;
- E. Three and one-half credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;

- F. One credit in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts; and
- G. A minimum of seven elective credits.
- H. Credit equivalencies
 - 1. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture education or business department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies under Paragraph E., above, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
 - 2. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state physical science, life science, earth and space science, chemistry, or physics academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the school district. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the school district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry or physics academic standards prior to graduation. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under Paragraph D., above.
 - 3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph F., above.
 - 4. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under Paragraph B., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
 - 5. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a mathematics or science credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in mathematics or science.

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- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards:
 - 1. School District Standards, Health (K-12);
 - 2. School District Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12); and
 - 3. School District Standards, World Languages (K-12).
- B. Academic standards in health, world languages, and career and technical education will be reviewed ~~on an annual basis as part of the district's curriculum review cycle~~.^{*} A school district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

^{*} Reviews are required to be conducted on a periodic basis. Therefore, this time period may be changed to accommodate individual school district needs.
- C. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required Graduation Standards in accordance with the standards developed by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE):
 - 1. Minnesota Academic Standards, English Language Arts K-12;

2. Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12;
 3. Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12;
 4. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12; and
 5. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12.
- D. State standards in the Arts K-12 are available, or school districts may choose to develop their own standards.
- E. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except the very few students with extreme cognitive or physical impairments for whom an IEP team has determined that the required academic standards are inappropriate. An IEP team that makes this determination must establish alternative standards.

VIII. EARLY GRADUATION

Students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minnesota Statutes section 120B.07, upon meeting the following conditions:

- A. All course or standards and credit requirements must be met;
- B. The principal or designee shall conduct an interview with the student and parent or guardian, familiarize the parties with opportunities available in post-secondary education, and arrive at a timely decision; and
- C. The principal's decision shall be in writing and may be subject to review by the superintendent and school board.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.024 (Credits)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
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 Part 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
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: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
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)

3.C. 614 School District Testing Plan and
Procedures

Adopted: _____

Revised: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 614
Orig. 1997
Rev. 2022~~17~~

614 SCHOOL DISTRICT TESTING PLAN AND PROCEDURE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the school district's testing plan and procedure.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is to implement procedures for testing, test security, documentation, and record keeping.

III. DUTIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL REGARDING TEST ADMINISTRATION

[Note: This listing of school personnel may not be consistent with the personnel in the school district and, consequently, should be amended to reflect the personnel with responsibility for testing in the *particular* school district.]

A. Superintendent

1. Responsibilities before testing.
 - a. Designate a district assessment coordinator and district technology coordinator.
 - b. The superintendent, or a designee who has been authorized to be the identified official with authority by the school board, pre-authorizes staff access for applicable Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) secure systems.
 - c. Annually review and recertify staff who have access to MDE secure systems.
 - d. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
[Note: This form is available on the Minnesota PearsonAccess Next website—see Cross References for website address included in the 614 Form file of the Policy Reference Manual.]
 - e. Establish a culture of academic integrity.
 - f. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) audits during testing.
 - g. Ensure student information is current and accurate.
 - h. Ensure that a current district test security procedure is in place and that all relevant staff have been provided district training on test administration and test security.
 - i. Ensure that a current process is included for tracking which students tested with which test monitors and any other adult(s) who were present in the testing room (e.g., staff providing assistance, paraprofessionals, etc.).

- j. Confirm the district assessment coordinator has current information and training specific to test security and the administration of statewide assessments.
 - k. Confirm the district assessment coordinator completes Pre-test Editing in the Test Web Edit System (WES).
 - l. Post on the school district website the complete Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing form.
2. Responsibilities after testing.
- a. Confirm the district assessment coordinator and Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System (MARSS) coordinator complete Post-test Editing in Test WES.
 - b. Verify with the district assessment coordinator that all test security issues have been reported to MDE and are being addressed.
 - c. Confirm the MARSS coordinator has updated all student records for Post-test Editing.
 - d. Confirm the district assessment coordinator has finalized the district's assessment information prior to the close of Post-test Editing in Test WES.
 - e. Confirm the district assessment coordinator, or designee, has access to the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system and enters necessary information.
 - f. Discuss assessment results with the district assessment coordinator and school administrators.

B. District Assessment Coordinator

1. Responsibilities before testing.
- a. Serve as primary contact with MDE regarding policy and procedure questions related to test administration.
 - b. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
 - c. Confirm all staff who handle test materials, administer tests, or have access to secure test content have completed the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
 - (1) Maintain the completed *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure* for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
 - d. Review with all staff the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure* and their responsibilities thereunder.
 - e. Identify appropriate tests for students and ensure student data sent to service providers for testing are correct.
 - f. Establish district testing schedule within the testing windows specified by the MDE and service providers.

- g. Prepare testing conditions, including user access to service provider websites, preparing readiness for online testing, preparing a plan for tracking which students test on which computers or devices, ensure accommodations are indicated as necessary, providing students with opportunity to become familiar with test format, item types, and tools prior to test administration; establishing process for inventorying and distributing secure test materials where necessary; preparing procedures for expected and unexpected situations occurring during testing; planning for addressing technical issues while testing; identify staff who will enter student responses from paper accommodated test materials and scores from MTAS administration online.
 - h. Train school assessment coordinators, test monitors, MTAS test administrators, and ACCESS (test for English language learners) and Alternate ACCESS test administrators.
 - (1) Provide training on proper test administration and test security (Pearson's Training Management System).
 - (2) Verify staff complete any and all test-specific training.
 - i. Maintain security of test content, test materials, and record of all staff involved.
 - (1) Receive secure paper test materials from the service provider and immediately lock them in a previously identified secure area, inventory same, and contact service provider with any discrepancies.
 - (2) Organize secure test materials for online administrations and keep them secure.
 - (3) Define chain of custody for providing test materials to test monitors and administrators. The chain of custody must address the process for providing test materials on the day of testing, distributing test materials to and collecting test materials from students at the time of testing, keeping test materials secure between testing sessions, and returning test materials after testing is completed.
 - j. Confirm that all students have appropriate test materials.
2. Responsibilities on testing day(s).
- a. Conduct random, unannounced visits to testing rooms to observe staff adherence to test security and policies and procedures.
 - b. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.
 - c. Contact the MDE assessment contact within 24 hours of a security breach and submit the *Test Security Notification* in Test WES within 48 hours.
 - d. Address invalidations and test or accountability codes.
3. Responsibilities after testing.
- a. Ensure that student responses from paper accommodated test materials and MTAS scores are entered.

- b. Arrange for secure disposal of all test materials that are not required to be returned within 48 hours after the close of the testing window.
- c. Return secure test materials as outlined in applicable manuals and resources.
- d. Collect security documents and maintain them for two years from the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
- e. Review student assessment data and resolve any issues.
- f. Distribute Individual Student Reports no later than fall parent/teacher conferences.
- g. Enter Graduation Requirements Records in the GRR system.

C. School Principal

- 1. Responsibilities before testing.
 - a. Designate a school assessment coordinator and technology coordinator for the building.
 - b. Be knowledgeable about proper test administration and test security as outlined in manuals and directions.
 - c. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
 - d. Communicate the importance of test security and expectation that staff will keep test content secure and act with honesty and integrity during test administration.
 - e. Provide adequate secure storage space for secure test materials before, during, and after testing until they are returned to the service provider or securely disposed of.
 - f. Ensure adequate computers and/or devices are available and rooms are appropriately set up for online testing.
 - g. Verify that all test monitors and test administrators receive proper training for test administration.
 - h. Ensure students taking specified tests have opportunity to become familiar with test format, item types, and tools prior to test administration.
 - i. Include the complete Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing form in the student handbook.
- 2. Responsibilities on testing day(s).
 - a. Ensure that test administration policies and procedures and test security requirements in all manuals and directions are followed.
 - b. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.

Commented [1]: @mthomas@isd110.org Here's an addition for the student handbooks <https://isd110.org/sites/default/files/files/content/2022-23-statewide-assessments-parent-guardian-participation-guide-and-refusal-information-re-042122.pdf>
Assigned to Matt Thomas

3. Responsibilities after testing.
 - a. Ensure all secure test materials are collected, returned, and/or disposed of securely as required in any manual.
 - b. Ensure requirements for embargoed final assessment results are followed.

D. School Assessment Coordinator

1. Responsibilities before testing.
 - a. Implement test administration and test security policies and procedures.
 - b. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
 - c. Ensure all staff who handle test materials, administer tests, or have access to secure test content read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
 - d. Identify appropriate tests for students and ensure student data sent to service providers for testing are correct.
 - e. Prepare testing conditions, including the following: schedule rooms and computer labs; arrange for test monitors and administrators; arrange for additional staff to assist with unexpected situations; arrange for technology staff to assist with technical issues; develop a plan for tracking which students test on which computers or devices; plan seating arrangements for students; ensure preparations are completed for Optional Local Purpose Assessment (OLPA), Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA), and ACCESS online testing; ensure accommodations are properly reported; confirm how secure paper test materials will arrive and quantities to expect; address accommodations and specific test administration procedures; determine staff who will enter the student responses from paper accommodated test materials and scores from MTAS administrations online.
 - f. Train staff, including all state-provided training materials, policies and procedures, and test-specific training.
 - g. Maintain security of test content and test materials.
 - (1) Receive secure paper test materials from the service provider and immediately lock them in a previously identified secure area, inventory same, and contact service provider with any discrepancies.
 - (2) Organize secure test materials for online administrations and keep them secure.
 - (3) Follow chain of custody for providing test materials to test monitors and administrators. The chain of custody must address the process for providing test materials on the day of testing, distributing test materials to and collecting test materials from students at the time of testing, keeping test materials secure between testing sessions, and returning test materials after testing is completed.

- (4) Identify need for additional test materials to district assessment coordinator.
 - (5) Provide MTAS student data collection forms if necessary.
 - (6) Distribute applicable ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS *Test Administrator Scripts* and *Test Administration Manuals* to test administrators so they can become familiar with the script and prepare for test administration.
 - (7) Confirm that all students taking ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS have appropriate test materials and preprinted student information on the label is accurate.
2. Responsibilities on testing day(s).
- a. Distribute materials to test monitors and ACCESS test administrators and ensure security of test materials between testing sessions and that district procedures are followed.
 - b. Ensure *Test Monitor and Student Directions* and *Test Administrator Scripts* are followed and answer questions regarding same.
 - c. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits, as applicable.
 - d. Conduct random, unannounced visits to testing rooms to observe staff adherence to test security and test administration policies and procedures.
 - e. Report testing irregularities to district assessment coordinator using the *Test Administration Report*.
- [Note: This form is available on the Minnesota PearsonAccess Next website—see Cross References for website address. Note: This form is included in the 614 Form file of the Policy Reference Manual.]**
- f. Report security breaches to the district assessment coordinator as soon as possible.
3. Responsibilities after testing.
- a. Ensure that all paper test materials are kept locked and secure and security checklists completed.
 - b. Ensure that student responses from paper accommodated test materials and MTAS scores are entered.
 - c. Arrange for secure disposal of all test materials that are not required to be returned within 48 hours after the close of the testing window.
 - d. Return secure test materials as outlined in applicable manuals and resources.
 - e. Prepare materials for pickup by designated carrier on designated date(s). Maintain security of all materials.
 - f. Ensure requirements for embargoed final assessment results are followed.

E. Technology Coordinator

1. Ensure that district is prepared for online test administration and provide technical support to district staff.
2. Acquire all necessary user identifications and passwords.
3. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
4. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.
5. Attend district training and any service provider technology training.
6. Review, use, and be familiar with all service provider technical documentation.
7. Prepare computers and devices for online testing.
8. Confirm site readiness.
9. Provide all necessary accessories for testing, technical support/troubleshooting during test administration and contact service provider help desks as needed.

F. Test Monitor

1. Responsibilities before testing.
 - a. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
 - b. Attend trainings related to test administration and security.
 - c. Complete required training course(s) for tests administering.
 - d. Be knowledgeable about how to contact the school assessment coordinator during testing, where to pick up materials on day of test, and plan for securing test materials between test sessions.
 - e. Be knowledgeable regarding student accommodations.
 - f. Remove or cover any instructional posters or visual materials in the testing room.
2. Responsibilities on testing day(s).
 - a. Before test.
 - (1) Receive and maintain security of test materials.
 - (2) Verify that all test materials are received.
 - (3) Ensure proper number of computers/devices or paper accommodated test materials are present.
 - (4) Verify student testing tickets and appropriate allowable materials.
 - (5) Assign numbered test books to individual students.

- (6) Complete information as directed.
- (7) Record extra test materials.

b. During test.

- (1) Verify that students are logged in and taking the correct test or using the correct grade-level and tier test booklet for students with paper accommodated test materials.
- (2) Follow all directions and scripts exactly.
- (3) Follow procedures for restricting student access to cell phones and other electronic devices, including wearable electronic devices.
- (4) Stay in testing room and remain attentive during entire test session. Practice active monitoring by circulating throughout the room during testing.

[Note: School districts may allow test monitors to use their cell phones only to alert other staff of issues. If allowed, the school district should train the test monitors on proper and improper use.]

- (5) Be knowledgeable about responding to emergency or unusual circumstances and technology issues.
- (6) Do not review, discuss, capture, email, post, or share test content in any format.
- (7) Ensure all students have been provided the opportunity to independently demonstrate their knowledge.
- (8) Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.
- (9) Document the students who tested with the test monitor and any other adult(s) who were present in the testing room (e.g., staff providing assistance, paraprofessionals, etc.).
- (10) Document students who require a scribe or translated directions or any unusual circumstances and report to school assessment coordinator.
- (11) Report any possible security breaches as soon as possible.

c. After test.

- (1) Follow directions and scripts exactly.
- (2) Collect all materials and keep secure after each session. Upon completion return to the school assessment coordinator.
- (3) Immediately report any missing test materials to the school assessment coordinator.

G. MTAS Test Administrator

1. Before testing.
 - a. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
 - b. Attend trainings related to test administration and security.
 - c. Complete required training course(s) for tests administering.
 - d. Be knowledgeable as to when and where to pick up MTAS materials and the school's plan for keeping test materials secure.
 - e. Prepare test materials for administration, including objects and manipulatives, special instructions, and specific adaptations for each student.
2. Responsibility on testing day(s).
 - a. Before the test.
 - (1) Maintain security of materials.
 - (2) Confirm appropriate MTAS materials are available and prepared for student.
 - b. During the test.
 - (1) Administer each task to each student and record the score.
 - (2) Be knowledgeable about how to contact the district or school assessment coordinator, if necessary, and responding to emergency and unusual circumstances.
 - (3) Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.
 - (4) Document and report and unusual circumstances to district or school assessment coordinator.
 - c. After the test.
 - (1) Keep materials secure.
 - (2) Return all materials.
 - (3) Return objects and manipulatives to classroom.
 - (4) Enter MTAS scores online or return data collection forms to the district or school assessment coordinator.

H. MARSS Coordinator

1. Responsibilities before testing.
 - a. Confirm all eligible students have unique state student identification (SSID) or MARSS numbers.
 - b. Ensure English language and special education designations are current and correct for students testing based on those designations.

- c. Submit MARSS data on an ongoing basis to ensure accurate student demographic and enrollment information.
- 2. Responsibilities after testing.
 - a. Ensure accurate enrollment of students in schools during the accountability windows.
 - b. Ensure MARSS identifying characteristics are correct, especially for any student not taking an accountability test.
 - c. Work with district assessment coordinator to edit discrepancies during the Post-test Edit window in Test WES.

I. Any Person with Access to Test Materials

Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.

IV. TEST SECURITY

- A. Test Security Procedures will be adopted by school district administration.

[Note: This form is available on the Minnesota PearsonAccess Next website—see Cross References for website address. Note: A sample procedure that has been approved by MDE is included in the 614 Form file of the Policy Reference Manual.]

- B. Students will be informed of the following:

- 1. The importance of test security;
- 2. Expectation that students will keep test content secure;
- 3. Expectation that students will act with honesty and integrity during test administration;
- 4. Expectation that students will not access cell phones, wearable technology (e.g., smart watches, fitness trackers), or other devices that can electronically send or receive information. The test of a student who wears a device during testing must be invalidated.

If a student completes testing and then accesses a cell phone or other prohibited device (including wearable technology), the school district must take further action to determine if the test should be invalidated, rather than automatically invalidating the test.

- 5. Availability of the online Test Security Tip Line on the MDE website for reporting suspected incidents of cheating or other improper or unethical behavior.

- C. Staff will be informed of the following:

- 1. Availability of the online Test Security Tip Line on the MDE website for reporting suspected incidents of cheating or other improper or unethical behavior.
- 2. Other contact information and options for reporting security concerns.

V. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR PROGRAM AUDIT

- A. The school district shall maintain records necessary for program audits conducted by MDE. The records must include documentation consisting of the following:

1. Signed *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure* forms must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic year in which the testing took place.
2. School district security checklists provided in the test materials shipment must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
3. School security checklists provided in the test materials shipment must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
4. Test Monitor Test Materials Security Checklist provided for each group of students assigned to a test monitor must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
5. School district test monitor tracking documentation must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic year in which the tracking took place.
6. ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Packing List and Security Checklist provided in the test materials shipment must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
7. Documentation of school district staff training on test administration and test security must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
8. *Test Security Notification* must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
9. *Test Administration Report* must be maintained for one year after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
10. Record of staff trainings and test-specific trainings must be maintained for one year after the end of the academic year in which testing took place.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 13.34 (Examination Data)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process [for Reviewing Curriculum Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce](#))
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.36, Subd. 2 ([School Accountability](#)) ~~Adequate Yearly Progress~~
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180 (Graduation Standards – Mathematics and Reading) (repealed Minn. L. 2013, Ch. 116, Art. 2, 22)~~
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0200-2501.0290 (Graduation Standards – Written Composition) (repealed Minn. L. 2013, Ch. 116, Art. 2, 22)~~
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 3501.082 ~~00-3501.0815~~ (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 3501.1300-3501.1345 (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: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
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)
[Minnesota PearsonAccess Next Resources and Forms:](http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/policies-and-procedures/)
<http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/policies-and-procedures/>

3.D.615 Basic Standards Testing Accommodations
Modifications and Exemptions for IEP Section 504
Accommodations and LEP Students

615 TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS FOR IEPs, SECTION 504 PLANS, AND LEP STUDENTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to provide adequate opportunity for students identified as having individualized education program (IEP), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504 accommodation plan (504 plan), or English Learner (EL) needs to participate in statewide assessment systems designed to hold schools accountable for the academic performance of all students.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

1. The school district will utilize the existing annual review of IEPs or 504 plans to review, on a case-by-case basis, and determine how a student with a disability will participate in statewide testing.
2. Participation decisions will be made separately for mathematics, reading, and science. The assessment options are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) and the MTAS.
3. Eligibility Requirements
 - a. The following requirements must be met for a student with a significant cognitive disability to be eligible for the MTAS:
 - (1) The IEP team must consider the student's ability to access the MCA, with or without accommodations;
 - (2) The IEP must review the student's instructional program to ensure that the student is receiving instruction linked to the general education curriculum to the extent appropriate. If instruction is not linked to the general education curriculum, the IEP team must review the student's goals and determine how access to the general curriculum will be provided;
 - (3) The IEP team determined the student's cognitive functioning to be significantly below age expectations. The team also determined that the student's disability has a significant impact on his or her ability to function in

multiple environments, including home, school, and community;

- (4) The IEP team determined that the student needs explicit and intensive instruction and/or extensive supports in multiple settings to acquire, maintain, and generalize academic and life skills in order to actively participate in school, work, home, and community environments;
- (5) The IEP team must document, in the IEP, reasons the MCA is or is not an appropriate measure of the student's academic progress and how the student would participate in statewide testing.

b. MTAS participation decisions must not be made on the following factors:

- (1) Student's disability category;
- (2) Placement;
- (3) Participation in a separate, specialized curriculum;
- (4) An expectation that the student will receive a low score on the MCA;
- (5) Language, social, cultural, or economic differences;
- (6) Concern for accountability calculations.

B. Alternate ACCESS for ELs

1. The school district will utilize the existing annual review of IEPs or 504 plans to review, on a case-by-case basis, and determine how an identified EL student with a disability will participate in statewide testing.
2. Eligibility Requirements
 - a. The student must be identified as EL in MARSS in order to take an English language proficiency assessment.
 - b. The student must have a significant cognitive disability. If the student has been identified as eligible to take the MTAS in mathematics, reading, or science, the student meets this criterion.

- c. For students in grades that the MTAS is not administered:
 - (1) the student must have cognitive functioning significantly below age level;
 - (2) the student's disability must have a significant impact on his or her ability to function in multiple environments, including home, school, and community; and
 - (3) the student needs explicit and intensive instruction and/or extensive supports in multiple settings to acquire, maintain, and generalize academic and life skills in order to actively participate in school, work, home, and community environments.
 - d. The IEP team must consider the student's ability to access the ACCESS, with or without accommodations.
 - e. The IEP team must document, in the IEP, reasons the MCA is or is not an appropriate English language proficiency assessment for the student.
3. Alternate ACCESS participation decisions must not be made on the following factors:
- a. Student's disability category;
 - b. Participation in a separate, specialized curriculum;
 - c. Current level of English language proficiency;
 - d. The expectation that the student will receive a low score on the ACCESS for ELs;
 - e. Language, social, cultural, or economic differences;
 - f. Concern for accountability calculations.

C. EL Students New to the United States

EL students new to the United States will take all assessments, including all academic assessments (math, reading, and science), as well as the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ACCESS).

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

See the current “Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments” which is produced by the Minnesota Department of Education and available through minnesotapearsonaccessnext.com.

IV. GRANTING AND DOCUMENTING ACCOMMODATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, OR EXEMPTIONS FOR TESTING

See Chapter 5 of the current “Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments” and 2017-18 Guidelines for Administration of Accommodations and Linguistic Supports (http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/resources/resources-training/manuals/GuidelinesforAccommodations_2018.pdf).

V. RECORDS

All test accommodations, modifications, or exemptions shall be reported to the school district test administrator. The school district test administrator shall be responsible for keeping a list of all such test accommodations, modifications, and exemptions for school district audit purposes. Testing results will be documented and reported.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.08(a)(1) (Individualized Education Programs)
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 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)
Eligibility Requirements for the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS), <https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/hiddencontent/mdaw/mda2/~edisp/006087.pdf>

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Participation Guidelines,
<https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/hiddencontent/mdaw/mdq5/~edisp/049763.pdf>

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 616 (School District System Accountability)

Policy Adopted: March 2004
Revised: Dec 2020
Independent School District No. 110
Waconia, MN

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 615

Orig. 1997

Revised: _____

Rev. 2022~~19~~

615 TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS FOR IEPs, SECTION 504 PLANS, AND LEP STUDENTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to provide adequate opportunity for students identified as having individualized education program (IEP), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504 accommodation plan (504 plan), or English Learner (EL) needs to participate in statewide assessment systems designed to hold schools accountable for the academic performance of all students.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

1. The school district will utilize the existing annual review of IEPs or 504 plans to review, on a case-by-case basis, and determine how a student with a disability will participate in statewide testing.
2. Participation decisions will be made separately for mathematics, reading, and science. The assessment options are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) and the MTAS.
3. Eligibility Requirements
 - a. The following requirements must be met for a student with a significant cognitive disability to be eligible for the MTAS:
 - (1) The IEP team must consider the student's ability to access the MCA, with or without accommodations;
 - (2) The IEP must review the student's instructional program to ensure that the student is receiving instruction linked to the general education curriculum to the extent appropriate. If instruction is not linked to the general education curriculum, the IEP team must review the student's goals and determine how access to the general curriculum will be provided;
 - (3) The IEP team determined the student's cognitive functioning to be significantly below age expectations. The team also determined that the student's disability has a significant impact on his or her ability to function in multiple environments, including home, school, and community;
 - (4) The IEP team determined that the student needs explicit and intensive instruction and/or extensive supports in multiple settings to acquire, maintain, and generalize academic and life skills in order to actively participate in school, work, home, and community environments;
 - (5) The IEP team must document, in the IEP, reasons the MCA is or is not an appropriate measure of the student's academic

progress and how the student would participate in statewide testing.

- b. MTAS participation decisions must not be made on the following factors:
 - (1) Student's disability category;
 - (2) Placement;
 - (3) Participation in a separate, specialized curriculum;
 - (4) An expectation that the student will receive a low score on the MCA;
 - (5) Language, social, cultural, or economic differences;
 - (6) Concern for accountability calculations.

B. Alternate ACCESS for ELs

- 1. The school district will utilize the existing annual review of IEPs or 504 plans to review, on a case-by-case basis, and determine how an identified EL student with a disability will participate in statewide testing.
- 2. Eligibility Requirements
 - a. The student must be identified as EL in MARSS in order to take an English language proficiency assessment.
 - b. The student must have a significant cognitive disability. If the student has been identified as eligible to take the MTAS in mathematics, reading, or science, the student meets this criterion.
 - c. For students in grades that the MTAS is not administered:
 - (1) the student must have cognitive functioning significantly below age level;
 - (2) the student's disability must have a significant impact on his or her ability to function in multiple environments, including home, school, and community; and
 - (3) the student needs explicit and intensive instruction and/or extensive supports in multiple settings to acquire, maintain, and generalize academic and life skills in order to actively participate in school, work, home, and community environments.
 - d. The IEP team must consider the student's ability to access the ACCESS, with or without accommodations.
 - e. The IEP team must document, in the IEP, reasons the MCA is or is not an appropriate English language proficiency assessment for the student.
- 3. Alternate ACCESS participation decisions must not be made on the following factors:

- a. Student’s disability category;
- b. Participation in a separate, specialized curriculum;
- c. Current level of English language proficiency;
- d. The expectation that the student will receive a low score on the ACCESS for ELs;
- e. Language, social, cultural, or economic differences;
- f. Concern for accountability calculations.

C. EL Students New to the United States

EL students new to the United States will take all assessments, including all academic assessments (math, reading, and science), as well as the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ACCESS).

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

See the current “Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments” which is produced by the Minnesota Department of Education and available through minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com.

IV. GRANTING AND DOCUMENTING ACCOMMODATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, OR EXEMPTIONS FOR TESTING

See Chapter 5 of the current “Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments” and 2020-21 17-18 Guidelines for Administration of Accommodations and Linguistic Supports http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/resources/resources-training/manuals/Guidelines%20for%20Accomm_2020-21.pdf (~~http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/resources/resources-training/manuals/GuidelinesforAccommandLS_2018.pdf~~).

V. RECORDS

All test accommodations, modifications, or exemptions shall be reported to the school district test administrator. The school district test administrator shall be responsible for keeping a list of all such test accommodations, modifications, and exemptions for school district audit purposes. Testing results will be documented and reported.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process [for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World’s Best Workforce](#))
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.08~~(a)(1)~~ (Individualized Education Programs)
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 3501.08~~20_00-3501.0815~~ (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 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)

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

Eligibility Requirements for the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS), <https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/hiddencontent/mdaw/mda2/~edisp/006087.pdf>

<https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/hiddencontent/mdaw/mda2/~edisp/006087.pdf>

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Participation Guidelines, <https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/hiddencontent/mdaw/mdq5/~edisp/049763.pdf>

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 616 (School District System Accountability)

3.E. 616 School District System Accountability

616 SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

[Note: Minnesota Statutes section 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 Minnesota Statutes section 120B.11.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to focus public education strategies on a process that promotes higher academic achievement for all students and ensures broad-based community participation in decisions regarding the implementation of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Implementation of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law requires accountability for the school district. The school district established a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards. The school district also established a system to review and improve instruction, curriculum, and assessment which will include substantial input by students, parents or guardians, and local community members. The school district will be accountable to the public and the state through annual reporting.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Credit" means a student's successful completion of an academic year of study or a student's mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district.
- B. "Graduation Standards" means the credit requirements and locally adopted content standards or Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards that school districts must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- C. "World's best workforce" means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; close the academic achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups of students and between students living in poverty and students not living in poverty; have all students attain career and college readiness before graduating from high school; and have all students graduate from high school.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; EVALUATION AND REPORTING

- A. School District Goals
 - 1. The school board has established school district-wide goals that provide broad direction for the school district. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law. The broad goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the school board. The school board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the school district's Advisory Committee.
 - 2. The Advisory Committee is established by the school board to ensure active

community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.

3. The school district-wide improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the Advisory Committee process. The school district's goal setting process will include consideration of individual site goals. School district goals may also be developed through an education effectiveness program, an evaluation of student progress committee, or through some other locally determined process.

- B. System for Reviewing All Instruction and Curriculum. Incorporated in the process will be analysis of the school district's progress toward implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Instruction and curriculum shall be reviewed and evaluated by taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, principal evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 123B.147, and teacher evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40 or 122A.41.

[Insert Local Cycle in this space]

- C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. The Advisory Committee shall also advise the school board on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including K-12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities, and other related issues. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be published annually to the community. The school board shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update this policy at least annually.
2. The school board shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at each school site meet federal expectations. If the school board determines that student achievement levels at a school site do not meet federal expectations and the site has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years, the Advisory Committee shall work with the school site to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels to meet federal expectations. The Advisory Committee may seek assistance from the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) (Commissioner) in developing a plan which must include parental involvement components.
3. The educational assessment system component utilized by the school board to measure individual students' educational progress must be based, to the extent annual tests are administered, on indicators of achievement growth that show an individual student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide or districtwide assessments. The school board will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The school board must coordinate with MDE in evaluating school sites and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.

- D. Comprehensive Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

1. By [date] of each year, the Advisory Committee will meet to advise and assist the school district in the implementation of the school district system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process.

2. The Advisory Committee, working in cooperation with other committees of the school district [*such as the Technology, Educational Effectiveness, Grade Level, Site Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Committees, etc.*], will provide active community participation in:
 - a. Reviewing the school district instructional and curriculum plan, with emphasis on implementing the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards;
 - b. Identifying annual instruction and curriculum improvement goals for recommendation to the school board;
 - c. Making recommendations regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure school district progress toward its goals; and,
 - d. Advising the school board about development of the annual budget.
3. The Advisory Committee shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. The Advisory Committee shall ensure active community participation in all planning for instruction and curriculum affecting Graduation Standards.
 - b. The Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the school board on school district-wide standards, assessments, and program evaluation.
 - c. Building teams may be established as subcommittees to develop and implement an education effectiveness plan and to carry out methods to improve instruction, curriculum, and assessments as well as methods to use technology in meeting the school district improvement plan.
 - d. A local plan to evaluate student progress, using a local process, shall be used for developing a plan for assessment of student progress toward the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the Advisory Committee in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the school board.
4. The Advisory Committee shall, when possible, be comprised of at least two-thirds community representatives and shall reflect the diversity of the community. To the extent possible, the Advisory Committee shall reflect the diversity of the school district and its school sites and include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents. Included in its membership should be:
 - a. The Director of Curriculum (or similar educational leader)
 - b. Principal
 - c. School Board Member
 - d. Student Representative

- e. One teacher from each building or instructional level
- f. Two parents from each building or instructional level
- g. Two residents without school-aged children, non-representative of local business or industry
- h. Two residents representative of local business or industry
- i. District Assessment Coordinator (if different from "a." above)

[Note: This Advisory Committee composition is a model only.]

5. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.

6. The Advisory Committee shall meet the following timeline each year:

Month: Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the school board.

Month(s): Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum of the cycle content area.

Month(s): Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations.

Month: Present recommendations to the school board for its input and approval.

E. Evaluation of Student Progress Committee. A committee of professional staff shall develop a plan for assessment of student progress toward Literacy by Grade 3, the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the Advisory Committee to review instruction and curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site. This plan shall annually be approved by the school board.

F. Reporting

1. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.36, Subd. 1, the school board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in the district, by mail, or by electronic means on the school district website. The school board shall hold an annual public meeting to review and revise, where appropriate, student achievement goals, local assessment outcomes, plans, strategies, and practices for improving curriculum and instruction and cultural competency and efforts to equitably distribute diverse, effective, experienced, and in-field teachers, and to review school district success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to the world's best workforce. The school board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. The school district shall periodically survey affected constituencies in their native languages, where appropriate and practicable, about their connection to and level of satisfaction

with school. The school district shall include the results of this evaluation in its published reports and in its summary report to the Commissioner.

2. The school performance report for a school site and a school district must include performance reporting information and calculate proficiency rates as required by the most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
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. Stat. § 120B.35 (Student Academic Achievement and Growth)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.36 (School Accountability)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40 (Employment; Contracts; Termination)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.04 (Site Decision Making; Individualized Learning Agreement; Other Agreements)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.147(Principals)
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 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
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: 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 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 619 (Staff Development for Standards)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)

Policy Adopted: March 2004

Reviewed: June 2015, May 2016, April 2021

Revised: June 2022

Independent School District No. 110

Waconia, MN

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616

Orig. 1997

Revised: _____

Rev. 2022~~19~~

616 SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

[Note: ~~Minn. Stat. § Minnesota Statutes section~~ 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. §Minnesota Statutes section~~ 120B.11.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to focus public education strategies on a process ~~which that~~ promotes higher academic achievement for all students and ensures broad-based community participation in decisions regarding the implementation of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Implementation of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law ~~will requires a new level of~~ accountability for the school district. The school district ~~will established~~ a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards. The school district also ~~will established~~ a system to review and improve instruction, curriculum, and assessment which will include substantial input by students, parents or guardians, and local community members. The school district will be accountable to the public and the state through annual reporting.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Credit" means a student's successful completion of an academic year of study or a student's mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district.
- B. "Graduation Standards" means the credit requirements and locally adopted content standards or Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards that school districts must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- C. "World's best workforce" means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; close the academic achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups of students and between students living in poverty and students not living in poverty; have all students attain career and college readiness before graduating from high school; and have all students graduate from high school.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A. School District Goals

- 1. The school board has established school district-wide goals ~~which that~~ provide broad direction for the school district. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law. The broad goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the school board. The school board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the school district's Advisory Committee.
- 2. **The school board shall approve the guidelines for member representation of the**

Advisory Committee ~~is will be established by the school board~~ to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.

3. The school district-wide improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the Advisory Committee process. The school district's goal setting process will include consideration of individual site goals. School district goals may also be developed through an education effectiveness program, an evaluation of student progress committee, or through some other locally determined process.

- B. System for Reviewing All Instruction and Curriculum. Incorporated in the process will be analysis of the school district's progress toward implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Instruction and curriculum shall be reviewed and evaluated by taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, principal evaluations under ~~Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section 123B.147, Subd. 3,~~ and teacher evaluations under ~~Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40, Subd. 8,~~ or ~~122A.41, Subd. 5.~~

[Insert Local Cycle in this space]

- C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. The Advisory Committee shall also advise the school board on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including K-12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities, and other related issues. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be published annually to the community. The school board shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update this policy at least annually.
2. The school board shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at each school site meet federal expectations. If the school board determines that student achievement levels at a school site do not meet federal expectations and the site has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years, the Advisory Committee shall work with the school site to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels to meet federal expectations. The Advisory Committee may seek assistance from the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) (Commissioner) in developing a plan which must include parental involvement components.
3. The educational assessment system component utilized by the school board to measure individual students' educational progress must be based, to the extent annual tests are administered, on indicators of achievement growth that show an individual student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide or districtwide assessments. The school board will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The school board must coordinate with MDE in evaluating school sites and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.

- D. Comprehensive Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

1. By [date] of each year, the Advisory Committee will meet to advise and assist the school district in the implementation of the school district system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process.
2. The Advisory Committee, working in cooperation with other committees of the school district [*such as the Technology, Educational Effectiveness, Grade Level,*

Site Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Committees, etc.], will provide active community participation in:

- a. Reviewing the school district instructional and curriculum plan, with emphasis on implementing the Minnesota [K-12 Academic Standards](#);
 - b. Identifying annual instruction and curriculum improvement goals for recommendation to the school board;
 - c. Making recommendations regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure school district progress toward its goals; [and](#),
 - d. Advising the school board about development of the annual budget.
3. The Advisory Committee shall meet the following criteria:
- a. The Advisory Committee shall ensure active community participation in all planning for instruction and curriculum affecting Graduation Standards.
 - b. The Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the school board on school district-wide standards, assessments, and program evaluation.
 - c. Building teams may be established as subcommittees to develop and implement an education effectiveness plan and to carry out methods to improve instruction, curriculum, and assessments as well as methods to use technology in meeting the school district improvement plan.
 - d. A local plan to evaluate student progress, using a local process, shall be used for developing a plan for assessment of student progress toward the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the Advisory Committee in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the school board.
4. The Advisory Committee shall, when possible, be comprised of at least two-thirds community representatives and shall reflect the diversity of the community. To the extent possible, the Advisory Committee shall reflect the diversity of the school district and its school sites and include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents. Included in its membership should be:
- a. The Director of Curriculum (or similar educational leader)
 - b. Principal
 - c. School Board Member
 - d. Student Representative
 - e. One teacher from each building or instructional level
 - f. Two parents from each building or instructional level
 - g. Two residents without school-aged children, non-representative of local business or industry
 - h. Two residents representative of local business or industry

- i. District Assessment Coordinator (if different from "a." above)

[Note: This Advisory Committee composition is a model only.]

- 5. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.
- 6. The Advisory Committee shall meet the following timeline each year:
 - Month: Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the school board.
 - Month(s): Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum of the cycle content area.
 - Month(s): Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations.
 - Month: Present recommendations to the school board for its input and approval.

E. Evaluation of Student Progress Committee. A committee of professional staff shall develop a plan for assessment of student progress toward Literacy by Grade 3, the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the Advisory Committee to review instruction and curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site. This plan shall annually be approved by the school board.

F. Reporting

- 1. Consistent with ~~Minn. Stat. §~~Minnesota Statutes section 120B.36, Subd. 1, the school board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in the district, by mail, or by electronic means on the school district website. The school board shall hold an annual public meeting to review and revise, where appropriate, student achievement goals, local assessment outcomes, plans, strategies, and practices for improving curriculum and instruction and cultural competency and efforts to equitably distribute diverse, effective, experienced, and in-field teachers, and to review school district success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to the world's best workforce. The school board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. The school district shall periodically survey affected constituencies in their native languages, where appropriate and practicable, about their connection to and level of satisfaction with school. The school district shall include the results of this evaluation in its published reports and in its summary report to the Commissioner.
- 2. The school performance report for a school site and a school district must include performance reporting information and calculate proficiency rates as required by the most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Legal References:

- Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
- 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. Stat. § 120B.35 (Student Academic Achievement Levels and Growth)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.36 (School Accountability; ~~Appeals Process~~)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, ~~Subd. 8~~ (Employment; Contracts; Termination)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41, ~~Subd. 5~~ (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class;
Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.04 (Site Decision Making; Individualized Learning
Agreement; Other Agreements Agreement)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, ~~Subd. 3~~ (Principals)
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 3501.08~~20 00-3501.0815~~ (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
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:

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 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and
High School Standards)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 619 (Staff Development for Standards)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)

3.F.617 School District Ensurance of Preparatory
and High School Standards

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 617

Orig. 1998

Revised: _____

Rev. 202203

617 SCHOOL DISTRICT ENSURANCE OF PREPARATORY AND HIGH SCHOOL STANDARDS

[Note: With the repeal of the Profile of Learning, school districts no longer are required to comply with the procedures set forth in this policy. School districts which retain any portion of the Profile of Learning graduation requirements, however, may choose to retain all or a portion of this policy and may implement and manage the Profile of Learning content standards in whatever manner they deem appropriate.]

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 through the Profile of Learning content standards will continue to receive instruction, curriculum and assessment which address the preparatory and high school content standards of the Profile of Learning. This policy also defines how technology will be integrated across student learning areas. ***[Note: With the repeal of the Profile of Learning, school districts are not required to integrate technology across learning areas and may, in their discretion, delete this provision.]*** 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

[To the extent school districts retain preparatory content standards as part of their locally adopted academic standards, school districts should insert in this section how their curriculum and instructional opportunities for all students will address the preparatory content standards, including the primary, intermediate and middle level standards. This section should contain an outline of each learning area's sequence in a manner which provides notice as to when various achievements are expected.]

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. **[Note: With the repeal of the Profile of Learning, school districts are not required to integrate technology across learning areas and may, in their discretion, delete this provision.]**

[Note: School districts should examine existing graduation requirements and align them to the new requirements.]

C. Assessment of Content Standards

[School districts should insert their procedure for determining where student achievement of preparatory and high school content standards will be assessed.]

D. Additional Requirements

[School districts may wish to consider including additional graduation requirements beyond those required by the Minnesota Academic Standards.]

E. Special Needs Students

[School districts should insert their procedure for addressing preparatory and high school content standards for students with special needs.]

F. Integration of Technology

[School districts may insert their procedure for addressing how technology will be integrated across the learning areas. With the repeal of the Profile of Learning, school districts are not required to integrate technology across learning areas and may, in their discretion, delete this provision.]

G. Evaluation and Remediation of Student Difficulties and Achievement

[School districts should insert their procedure for addressing how diagnosis of student difficulties and remediation will be accomplished as well as how diagnosis of student achievement and acceleration or continuous progress will be accomplished.]

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 3501.082000-3501.0815 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.096055 (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)

- 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)

3.G. 623 Mandatory Summer School Instruction

623 MANDATORY SUMMER SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish program parameters and student attendance guidelines and requirements for the school district relating to the provision of mandatory summer school educational services.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Summer school educational services and instruction shall be directed toward the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the educational program and graduation standards of the school district.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. The school district shall offer summer school instruction providing opportunities for:
 - 1. Intervention programs at the elementary and middle school levels;
 - 2. Credit redemption and review courses at the high school level;
 - 3. Special education instruction and services related to mandatory summer school instruction consistent with applicable state and federal authority for all qualified disabled children where appropriate to their educational needs;
 - 4. Other summer school programs as determined by the school district.
- B. All services of the summer school program will be free to residents of the school district whose need for a summer program has been identified by teachers or the school principal and who are required to attend pursuant to established school district criteria and the provisions of this policy.
- C. The summer school curriculum will be established in line with the needs of students and in accordance with rules of the Department of Education. Remedial, make-up, and review courses shall provide opportunities for students to qualify for promotion and/or credit in areas and subjects where previous work has not met promotion/credit standards. It shall further be designed to assist students who have not passed one or more basic requirements tests and who are in need of remediation services relating to the school district's graduation standards or who have been identified as at risk of not learning to read before the end of second grade.
- D. Summer school provides the opportunity for students to improve basic skills,

further their academic progress, and/or accelerate in designated academic areas. The intent of the school district is to ensure that courses taught during the summer session are of the same level of instructional breadth and difficulty as provided during the regular school year.

IV. MANDATORY SUMMER SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

The school district will direct the administration to identify and develop specific criteria and standards for determining which students may receive summer school instruction. The instruction information and availability will be shared with school families on an annual basis. The superintendent will identify the administrators responsible for coordinating the summer instruction, including:

- Budgeting
- Staffing
- Registration
- Scheduling
- Procedures

V. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- A. The school district shall make available transportation services for all students required to receive instruction in the school district's summer school program in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 5(b). The school district recognizes that transportation is an essential part of the school district services to students and parents but further recognizes that transportation by school bus is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student.
- B. The school district shall retain sole discretion, control, and management of scheduling routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, and any other matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

VI. SCHOOL BOARD REVIEW

The superintendent or designated representative shall report at least annually to the school board regarding the status and utilization of programs under this policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Reading Proficiently no Later than the End of Grade 3)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (Boards of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts; Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.50 (Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services)

Minn. Rules Part 3501 (Graduation Standards)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 707 (Transportation of Public School Students)

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Waconia, MN

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 623

Orig. 1999

Revised: _____

Rev. 201922

623 MANDATORY SUMMER SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish program parameters and student attendance guidelines and requirements for the school district relating to the provision of mandatory summer school educational services.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Summer school educational services and instruction shall be directed toward the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the educational program and graduation standards of the school district.

III. PROCEDURES

A. The school district shall offer summer school instruction providing opportunities for:

~~*[Note: The following are for illustrative purposes. Summer school instructional offerings are a policy decision to be determined by the local school board.]*~~

- ~~**1. Remedial instruction Intervention programs at the elementary and middle school level(s);**~~
- ~~**2. Make-up Credit redemption and review courses at the high school level(s);**~~
- ~~**3. Special education instruction and services related to mandatory summer school instruction consistent with applicable state and federal authority for all qualified disabled children where appropriate to their educational needs;**~~
- ~~**4. Reading intervention programs or instruction for students who are at risk of not learning to read before the end of second grade; and**~~
- ~~**5. Other mandatory summer school programs as determined by the school district.**~~

B. All services of the summer school program will be free to residents of the school district whose need for a summer program has been identified by teachers or the school principal and who are required to attend pursuant to established school district criteria and the provisions of this policy.

C. The summer school curriculum will be established in line with the needs of students and in accordance with rules of the [Minnesota](#) Department of Education. ~~Remedial, make-up, Intervention, credit redemption,~~ and review courses shall provide opportunities for students to qualify for promotion and/or credit in areas and subjects where previous work has not met promotion/credit standards. It shall further be designed to assist students who have not passed one or more basic requirements tests and who are in need of ~~remediation intervention~~ services relating to the school district's graduation standards or who have been identified as at risk of not learning to read before the end of second grade.

- D. Summer school provides the opportunity for students to improve basic skills, further their academic progress, and/or accelerate in designated academic areas. The intent of the school district is to ensure that courses taught during the summer session are of the same level of instructional breadth and difficulty as provided during the regular school year.

IV. MANDATORY SUMMER SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

[Note: The Compulsory Instruction Law at ~~Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22, subdivision Subd. 5, specifically authorizes school districts to require children subject to compulsory instruction to attend summer school. Each school district that wishes to implement mandatory summer school instruction must establish the criteria and standards for determining which students will be required to receive such instruction. These criteria should be developed and determined by the school board in consultation with appropriate educational professionals. The final criteria and standards should be provided with specificity in this section. These criteria are within the discretion of the school board and may be tailored to a school district's particular needs and resources. They may be aimed at certain grade levels, academic areas and programs, or at students in need of remediation services relating to the school district's graduation standards and basic requirements testing.]~~

[Also, pursuant to ~~Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section 120B.12, as of the 2011-2012 school year, school districts must identify, before the end of kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2, students who are not reading at grade level before the end of the current school year. Such students must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia. Reading assessments in English and in the predominant languages of district students, where practicable, must identify and evaluate students' areas of academic need related to literacy. School districts must also monitor the progress and provide reading instruction appropriate to the specific needs of English learners. School districts must use a locally adopted, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive assessment. School districts are required to provide reading intervention methods for such students, which may include requiring student attendance in summer school.]~~

[Alternative]

The school board will direct the administration to identify and develop specific criteria and standards for determining which students must receive summer school instruction. **These will be provided to the school board for review and approval on no less than an annual basis. Following school board approval, the criteria and standards for mandatory summer school instruction will be included in this policy as Attachment A and incorporated herein by reference.** The instruction and availability will be shared with school families on an annual basis. The superintendent will identify administrators responsible for coordinating summer school instruction, including:

- budgeting
- staffing
- registration
- scheduling
- procedures

V. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- A. The school district shall make available transportation services for all students required to receive instruction in the school district's summer school program in accordance with ~~Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22, subdivision Subd. 5(b)~~. The school district recognizes that transportation is an essential part of the school district services to students and parents but further recognizes that transportation by school bus is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student.
- B. The school board shall retain sole discretion, control, and management of scheduling

routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, and any other matter relating to the provision of transportation services.

VI. SCHOOL BOARD REVIEW

The superintendent or designated representative shall report at least annually to the school board regarding the status and utilization of programs under this policy. **All summer school programs will be subject to annual review and approval by the school board.**

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Reading Proficiently no Later than the End of Grade 3)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (Boards of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts; Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.50 (Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services)
Minn. Rules ~~Chapter Part~~ 3501 (Graduation Standards)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 707 (Transportation of Public School Students)

3.H. 6-- Teaching About Controversial Topics

Teaching about Controversial Issues

I. PURPOSE

The development of critical thinking and preparation for citizenship are among the educational goals of the school district. As a result, the school district has a responsibility to include content dealing with current critical issues in various curriculum areas at all grade levels. Some of these issues may be controversial. The purpose of this policy is to recognize the benefit to students of the appropriate study of controversial issues within reasonable parameters. The school board has the final authority to give or withhold consent for any school activity or program.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The school district and the individual classroom teachers have a responsibility to give students an opportunity to study controversial issues which have political, economic, or social significance. The course of this study should include access to appropriate, relevant information, including materials that circulate freely in the community, and competent instruction balancing the various points of view in an atmosphere free from bias, prejudice, discrimination, and harassment.

B. In fulfilling this responsibility, the teacher shall make a deliberate effort to achieve balance within a reasonable period of time in the viewpoints and information to which students are exposed.

C. Students and parents may express opinions on controversial issues without jeopardizing relations with school staff.

D. In selecting controversial issues to be included in the instructional program, the staff shall use the following guidelines:

1. The issue should contribute toward helping students develop techniques for examining other controversial issues.
2. The issue should be suitable for students of the maturity and background represented in the class.
3. The issue should be related to the course content and help achieve course objectives.

E. If a controversial issue that is neither directly related to the course content nor specified as a part of the curriculum unexpectedly arises during a class discussion, for example as the result of a student's questions or comments or in the coverage of current events, the teacher may deal with student interest in the issue by devoting sufficient time to the issue to assure balanced, impartial coverage.

III. COMPLAINTS

A. The administration shall establish procedures, subject to school board approval, for handling any complaints relative to the study of controversial issues.

B. Recognizing the difficult position in which teachers will sometimes be placed in carrying out this policy and in giving students an opportunity to study a controversial issue, the school board places trust and confidence in

its employees and will support their actions insofar as possible, from anonymous, unreasonable, or ill-considered complaints.

IV. TRAINING

A. Principals and secondary area leaders shall be responsible for informing all staff members of the policy on coverage of controversial issues in the curriculum. In doing so, they shall emphasize the basic assumption that the school is providing an opportunity for students to study controversial issues, not teaching a viewpoint on controversial issues.

B. A teacher who is in doubt concerning the advisability of discussing certain issues and materials in the classroom shall confer with his/her principal as to the appropriateness of doing so. If the teacher and principal are unable to agree, the issue shall be referred to the superintendent or superintendent's designee.