

Policy Committee

Monday, September 11, 2023 6:00 PM

Waconia Public Schools - District Office, 512 Industrial Blvd., Waconia, MN
55387

1. Policies for Discussion

1.A. 416 Drug and Alcohol Testing

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416 DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

*[Note: Drug and ~~Alcohol~~ ~~Testing~~ of school bus drivers and applicants is mandatory under federal law. The mandatory testing is described under Part III. of the policy. Testing of other employees or testing of school bus drivers beyond that mandated by federal law is optional ~~but~~ **and** can be done under state law only if a policy containing provisions such as the provisions of Part IV. of this policy are adopted. To preserve the right to request or require school district employees who are not bus drivers and applicants to undergo drug and/or alcohol testing or to require bus drivers to submit to testing that is not federally mandated, a school district should adopt Part IV. as part of its drug and alcohol testing policy.]*

I. PURPOSE

- A. The school board recognizes the significant problems created by drug and alcohol use in society in general, and the public schools in particular. The school board further recognizes the important contribution that the public schools have in shaping the youth of today into the adults of tomorrow.
- B. The school board believes that a work environment free of drug and alcohol use will be not only safer, healthier, and more productive but also more conducive to effective learning. ~~Therefore, t~~To provide such an environment, the purpose of this policy is to provide authority so that the school board may require all employees and/or job applicants to submit to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in federal law and ~~Minn. Stat. §§~~ **Minnesota Statutes, sections** 181.950-181.957.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. All school district employees and job applicants whose positions require a commercial driver's license will be required to undergo drug and alcohol testing in accordance with federal law and the applicable provisions of this policy. The school district also may request or require that drivers submit to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in ~~Minn. Stat. §§~~ **Minnesota Statutes, sections** 181.950-181.957.
- B. The school district may request or require that any school district employee or job applicant, other than an employee or applicant whose position requires a commercial driver's license, submit to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in ~~Minn. Stat. §§~~ **Minnesota Statutes, sections** 181.950-181.957.
- C. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of any drugs not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, ~~regardless of whether~~ **or not** it has been prescribed for the employee, is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or

equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of drugs ~~which~~ **that** are not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, ~~regardless of whether~~ **or not** it has been prescribed for the employee, is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of drugs ~~which~~ **that** are not medically prescribed are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.

- D. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of alcohol is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of alcohol is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of alcohol are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.
- E. Any employee who violates this section shall be subject to discipline ~~which~~ **that** includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge.

III. FEDERALLY MANDATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

A. General Statement of Policy

All persons subject to commercial driver's license requirements shall be tested for alcohol, marijuana (including medical cannabis), cocaine, amphetamines, opiates (including heroin), and phencyclidine (PCP), pursuant to federal law. Drivers who test positive for alcohol or drugs shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.

B. Definitions

1. "Actual Knowledge" means actual knowledge by the school district that a driver has used alcohol or controlled substances based on: (a) direct observation of the employee's use (not observation of behavior sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing); (b) information provided by a previous employer; (c) a traffic citation; or (d) an employee's admission, except when made in connection with a qualified employee self-admission program.
2. "Alcohol Screening Device" (ASD) means a breath or saliva device, other than an Evidential Breath Testing Device (EBT), that is approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.
3. "Breath Alcohol Technician" (BAT) means an individual who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and who operates the EBT.

4. “Commercial Motor Vehicle” (CMV) includes a vehicle ~~which~~ **that** is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
5. “Designated Employer Representative” (DER) means **an employee authorized by the school district** ~~a designated school district representative authorized~~ to take immediate action to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, **or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and** to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation process.; ~~and to~~ **The DER** receives test results and other communications for the school district.
6. “Department of Transportation” (DOT) means United States Department of Transportation.
7. **“Direct Observation” means observation of alcohol or controlled substances use and does not include observation of employee behavior or physical characteristics sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing.**
8. “Driver” is any person who operates a CMV, including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent or occasional drivers, leased drivers, and independent owner-operator contractors.
9. “Evidential Breath Testing Device” (EBT) means a device approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the evidentiary testing of breath for alcohol concentration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.
10. **“Licensed Medical Practitioner” means a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered, in accordance with applicable Federal, State, local, or foreign laws and regulations, to prescribe controlled substances and other drugs.**
11. “Medical Review Officer” (MRO) means a licensed physician responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by the school district’s drug testing program and for evaluating medical explanations for certain drug tests.
12. “Refusal to Submit” (to an alcohol or controlled substances test) means that a driver: (a) fails to appear for any test within a reasonable time, as determined by the school district, consistent with applicable DOT regulations, after being directed to do so; (b) fails to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete; (c) fails to provide a urine specimen or an adequate amount of saliva or breath for any DOT drug or alcohol test; (d) fails to permit the observation or monitoring of the driver’s provision of a specimen in the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test; (e) fails to provide a sufficient breath specimen or sufficient amount of urine when directed and a determination has been made

that no adequate medical explanation for the failure exists; (f) fails or declines to take an additional test as directed by the school district or the collector; (g) fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO or the DER; (h) fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuses to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, fails to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector, fails to sign the certification on the forms); (i) fails to follow the observer's instructions, in an observed collection, to raise the driver's clothing above the waist, lower clothing and underpants, and to turn around to permit the observer to determine if the driver has any type of prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (j) possesses or wears a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (k) admits to the collector or MRO that the driver adulterated or substituted the specimen; or (l) is reported by the MRO as having a verified adulterated or substituted test result. An applicant who fails to appear for a pre-employment test, who leaves the testing site before the pre-employment testing process commences, or who does not provide a urine specimen because he or she has left before it commences is not deemed to have refused to submit to testing.

13. "Safety-Sensitive Functions" are on-duty functions from the time the driver begins work or is required to be in readiness to work until relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work, and include such functions as driving, loading and unloading vehicles, or supervising or assisting in the loading or unloading of vehicles, servicing, repairing, obtaining assistance to repair, or remaining in attendance during the repair of a disabled vehicle.
14. "Screening Test Technician" (STT) means anyone who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and operates an ASD.
15. "Stand Down" means the practice of temporarily removing an employee from performing safety-sensitive functions after based only upon a laboratory reports to the MRO of a confirmed positive, an adulterated, or a substituted test result but before the MRO completes the verification process.
16. "Substance Abuse Professional" (SAP) means a qualified person who evaluates employees who have violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and aftercare.

C. Policy and Educational Materials

[Note: The federal regulations require that school districts provide materials to bus drivers explaining the school district's policies and procedures and the federal requirements with respect to the mandatory drug and alcohol testing of

bus drivers. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 382.601. Almost all Most of the required information is contained within this model policy. Additional materials to be provided to employees are described in Paragraph 2. of this Section C.]

1. The school district shall provide a copy of this policy and procedures to each driver prior to the start of its alcohol and drug testing program and to each driver subsequently hired or transferred into a position requiring driving of a CMV.
2. The school district shall provide to each driver information **required under Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including information** concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or **drug controlled substance** problem; and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or drug problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to an employee assistance program, and/or referral to management.
3. The school district shall provide written notice to representatives of employee organizations that the information described above is available.
4. The school district shall require each driver to sign a statement certifying that **the driver** ~~he or she has~~ received a copy of the policy and materials. This statement should be in the form of Attachment A to this policy. The school district will maintain the original signed certificate and will provide a copy to the driver if the driver so requests.

[Note: The federal regulations require a school district to obtain a signed statement from each driver certifying that he or she ~~has~~ received a copy of these materials. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 382.601(d). The original signed certificate must be maintained by the school district and a copy may be provided to the driver.]

D. Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program Manager

[Note: School districts are required by the federal regulations to designate a person to answer driver questions about the policy and the education materials described in Section C. above and to notify the drivers of the designation. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 382.601(b)(1).]

1. The program manager will coordinate the implementation, direction, and administration of the alcohol and controlled substances testing policy for bus drivers. The program manager is the principal contact for the collection site, the testing laboratory, the MRO, the BAT, the SAP, and the person submitting to the test. Employee questions concerning this policy shall be directed to the program manager.

2. The school district shall designate a program manager and provide written notice of the designation to each driver along with this policy.

E. Specific Prohibitions for Drivers

[Note: The specific prohibitions for drivers are contained, in large part, in 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections ~~C.F.R.~~ § 382.201-382.215.]

1. Alcohol Concentration. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater. Drivers who test greater than 0.04 will be taken out of service and will be subject to evaluation by a professional and retesting at the driver's expense.
2. Alcohol Possession. No driver shall be on duty or operate a CMV while the driver possesses alcohol.
3. On-Duty Use. No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions.
4. Pre-Duty Use. No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol.
5. Use Following an Accident. No driver required to take a post-accident test shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident, or until **the driver** ~~he or she~~ undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.
6. Refusal to Submit to a Required Test. No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or controlled substances test required by post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty, or follow-up testing requirements. A verified adulterated or substituted drug test shall be considered a refusal to test.
7. Use of Controlled Substances. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substance, except when the use is pursuant to instructions (which have been presented to the school district) from a licensed ~~physician~~ **medical practitioner** who **is familiar with the driver's medical history and** has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Controlled substance includes medical cannabis, regardless of whether the driver is enrolled in the state registry program.
8. Positive, Adulterated, or Substituted Test for Controlled Substance. No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty, or perform a safety-sensitive function if the driver tests positive for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for

controlled substances.

9. General Prohibition. Drivers are also subject to the general policies and procedures of the school district ~~which~~ **that** prohibit the possession, transfer, sale, exchange, reporting to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and consumption of drugs or alcohol while at work or while on school district premises or operating any school district vehicle, machinery, or equipment.

F. Other Alcohol-Related Conduct

[Note: Consequences for drivers engaging in alcohol-related conduct are described in the federal regulations. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 382.505.]

No driver found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04 shall perform safety-sensitive functions for at least twenty-four (24) hours following administration of the test. The school district will not take any action under this policy other than removal from safety-sensitive functions based solely on test results showing an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04 but may take action otherwise consistent with law and **the** policy**ies** of the school district.

G. Prescription Drugs/Cannabinoid Products

A driver shall inform **the driver's** ~~his or her~~ supervisor if at any time the driver is using a controlled substance pursuant to a physician's prescription. The physician's instructions shall be presented to the school district upon request. Use of a prescription drug shall be allowed if the physician has advised the driver that the prescribed drug will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Use of medical cannabis is prohibited notwithstanding the driver's enrollment in the patient registry. **Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for marijuana. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if a driver claims to have only used nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid product.**

H. Testing Requirements

[Note: School district must utilize the U.S. DOT Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") to conduct pre-employment queries, annual queries, and reports regarding CDL holders who operate CMVs on public roads (including school bus drivers) and who are covered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. In addition to utilizing the Clearinghouse, school districts must continue to comply with the alcohol and controlled substance testing required under Title 49 of the Federal Regulations.]

1. Pre-Employment Testing

[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section ~~C.F.R.~~ § 382.301 details the requirements for pre-employment testing.]

- a. A driver applicant shall undergo testing for [alcohol and] controlled substances, including medical cannabis, before the first time the driver performs safety-sensitive functions for the school district.

[Note: A school district is permitted, but not required, to conduct pre-employment testing for the use of alcohol. If a school district elects to require pre-employment testing for alcohol, it should include the bracketed text in Subparagraph a., above, and test all applicants uniformly.]

- b. Tests shall be conducted only after the applicant has received a conditional offer of employment.
- c. ~~In order to~~ **To** be hired, the applicant must test negative and must sign an agreement in the form of Attachment B to this policy, authorizing former employers to release to the school district all information on the applicant's alcohol tests with results of blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or higher, or verified positive results for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or refusals to be tested (including verified adulterated or substituted drug test results), or any other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations, or, if the applicant violated the testing regulations, documentation of the applicant's successful completion of DOT return-to-duty requirements (including follow-up tests), within the preceding two (2) years.

[Note: The federal regulations require school districts to inquire about, obtain, and review alcohol and controlled substances information from prior employers pursuant to a driver's written authorization, prior to the time a driver performs safety-sensitive functions, if feasible. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section ~~C.F.R.~~ § 382.413 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations section ~~C.F.R.~~ § 40.25. If not feasible, school districts must not permit the employee to perform safety-sensitive functions for more than thirty (30) days from the date a safety-sensitive function was performed unless the school districts make good faith efforts to obtain the information and to make a record of those efforts to be retained in the driver's qualification file.]

- d. The applicant also must be asked whether he or she has tested positive, or refused to test, on any pre-employment drug or alcohol test administered by an employer to which the employee, during the last two (2) years, applied for, but did not obtain, safety-sensitive transportation work covered by DOT testing rules.
- e. **Before employing a driver subject to controlled substances and**

alcohol testing, the school district must conduct a full pre-employment query of the federal Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (“Clearinghouse”) to obtain information about whether the driver (1) has a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result; (2) has an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; (3) has refused to submit to a test in violation of federal law; or (4) that an employer has reported actual knowledge that the driver used alcohol on duty, before duty, or following and accident in violation of federal law. The applicant just give specific written or electronic consent for the school district to conduct the Clearinghouse full query. The school district shall retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of query.

2. Post-Accident Testing

[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section ~~C.F.R.~~ § 382.303 governs post-accident testing of drivers.]

- a. As soon as practicable following an accident involving a CMV, the school district shall test the driver for alcohol and controlled substances, including medical cannabis, if the accident involved the loss of human life or if the driver receives a citation for a moving traffic violation arising from an accident which results in bodily injury or disabling damage to a motor vehicle.
- b. Drivers should be tested for alcohol use within two (2) hours and no later than eight (8) hours after the accident.
- c. Drivers should be tested for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, no later than thirty-two (32) hours after the accident.
- d. A driver subject to post-accident testing must remain available for testing, or shall be considered to have refused to submit to the test.
- e. If a post-accident alcohol test is not administered within two (2) hours following the accident, the school district shall prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours.
- f. If a post-accident alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the accident or a post-accident controlled substances test is not administered within thirty-two (32) hours following the accident, the school district shall cease attempts to administer the test, and prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons for not administering the test.

- g. The school district shall report drug and alcohol program violations to the Clearinghouse as required under federal law.

3. Random Testing

[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 382.305 governs random testing of drivers.]

- a. The school district shall conduct tests on a random basis at unannounced times throughout the year, as required by the federal regulations.

[Note: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) lowered set the random alcohol selection and testing rate from at 1025% of the average number of driver positions to 10% in 1998 and evaluates this minimum percentage each year. School districts can elect to stay at the 1998 level of 25% (or a higher percentage) if they do not want to monitor the minimum annual percentage rate set by the FHWA. The random controlled substances selection and testing rate has remained at 50% each year and has not been lowered to 25% as is possible under the regulations.]

- b. The school district shall test for alcohol at a minimum annual percentage rate of 10% of the average number of driver positions, and for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, at a minimum annual percentage of 50%.
- c. The school district shall adopt a scientifically valid method for selecting drivers for testing, such as random number table or a computer-based random number generator that is matched with identifying numbers of the drivers. Each driver shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made. Each driver selected for testing shall be tested during the selection period.
- d. Random tests shall be unannounced. Dates for administering random tests shall be spread reasonably throughout the calendar year.
- e. Drivers shall proceed immediately to the collection site upon notification of selection; provided, however, that if the driver is performing a safety-sensitive function, other than driving, at the time of notification, the driver shall cease to perform the function and proceed to the collection site as soon as possible.

4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 382.307 governs reasonable suspicion testing of drivers.]

- a. The school district shall require a driver to submit to an alcohol test and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, test when a supervisor or school district official, who has been trained in accordance with the regulations, has reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver has used alcohol and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, on duty or within four (4) hours before coming on duty, **or just after the period of the work day**. The test shall be done as soon as practicable following the observation of the behavior indicative of the use of controlled substances or alcohol.
- b. The reasonable suspicion determination must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. The required observations for reasonable suspicion of a controlled substances violation may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.
- c. Alcohol testing shall be administered within two (2) hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion. If it is not done within two (2) hours, the school district shall prepare and maintain a record explaining why it was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours. If an alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the determination of reasonable suspicion, the school district shall cease attempts to administer the test and state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.
- d. The supervisor or school district official who makes observations leading to a controlled substances reasonable suspicion test shall make and sign a written record of the observations within twenty-four (24) hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier.

[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections C.F.R. § 382.309, 40.23(d), and 40.305 govern return-to-duty testing.]

5. Return-To-Duty Testing. A driver found to have violated this policy shall not return to work until an SAP has determined the employee has successfully complied with prescribed education and/or treatment and until undergoing return-to-duty tests indicating an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 and a confirmed negative result for the use of controlled substances. **The school district is not required to return a driver to safety-sensitive duties because the driver has met these conditions; this is a personnel decision subject to collective bargaining agreements or other legal requirements.**

[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections C.F.R. § 382.311, 40.307,

and 40.309 govern follow-up testing.]

6. Follow-Up Testing. When an SAP has determined that a driver is in need of assistance in resolving problems with alcohol and/or controlled substances, the driver shall be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the SAP for up to sixty (60) months after completing a treatment program.
7. Refusal to Submit and Attendant Consequences

[Note: Consequences for refusals to submit to required drug and alcohol tests are addressed generally in 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections C.F.R. § 40.191, 40.261, and 382.211. They are more specifically addressed in 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 382.501-382.507 and in 49 United States Code section U.S.C. § 521(b).]

- a. A driver or driver applicant may refuse to submit to drug and alcohol testing.
- b. Refusal to submit to a required drug or alcohol test subjects the driver or driver applicant to the consequences specified in federal regulations as well as the civil and/or criminal penalty provisions of 49 *United States Code section U.S.C. § 521(b)*. In addition, a refusal to submit to testing establishes a presumption that the driver or driver applicant would test positive if a test were conducted and makes the driver or driver applicant subject to discipline or disqualification under this policy.
- c. A driver applicant who refuses to submit to testing shall be disqualified from further consideration for the conditionally offered position.
- d. An employee who refuses to submit to testing shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions and will be considered insubordinate and subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. If an employee is offered an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty, the employee will be evaluated by an SAP and must submit to a return-to-duty test prior to being considered for reassignment to safety-sensitive functions.
- e. Drivers or driver applicants who refuse to submit to required testing will be required to sign Attachment C to this policy.

I. Testing Procedures

1. Drug Testing

[Note: The Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form (CCF) must

be used to document every urine collection required by the DOT drug testing program. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 40.45.]

- a. Drug testing is conducted by analyzing a donor's urine specimen. Split urine samples will be collected in accordance with federal regulations. The donor will provide a urine sample at a designated collection site. The collection site personnel will then pour the sample into two sample bottles, labeled "primary" and "split," seal the specimen bottles, complete the chain of custody form, and prepare the specimen bottles for shipment to the testing laboratory for analysis. The specimen preparation shall be conducted in sight of the donor.
- b. If the donor is unable to provide the appropriate quantity of urine, the collection site person shall instruct the individual to drink up to forty (40) ounces of fluid distributed reasonably through a period of up to three (3) hours to attempt to provide a sample. If the individual is still unable to provide a complete sample, the test shall be discontinued and the school district notified. The DER shall refer the donor for a medical evaluation to determine if the donor's inability to provide a specimen is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test. For pre-employment testing, the school district may elect to not have a referral made, and revoke the employment offer.
- c. Drug test results are reported directly to the MRO by the testing laboratory. The MRO reports the results to the DER. If the results are negative, the school district is informed and no further action is necessary. If the test result is confirmed positive, adulterated, substituted, or invalid, the MRO shall give the donor an opportunity to discuss the test result. The MRO will contact the donor directly, on a confidential basis, to determine whether the donor wishes to discuss the test result. The MRO shall notify each donor that the donor has seventy-two (72) hours from the time of notification in which to request a test of the split specimen at the donor's expense. No split specimen testing is done for an invalid result.
- d. If the donor requests an analysis of the split specimen within seventy-two (72) hours of having been informed of a confirmed positive test, the MRO shall direct, in writing, the laboratory to provide the split specimen to another Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA certified laboratory for analysis. If the donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours, the donor may present the MRO information documenting that serious illness, injury, inability to contact the MRO, lack of actual notice of the confirmed positive test, or other circumstances unavoidably prevented the donor from timely making contact. If the MRO concludes that a legitimate explanation for the donor's failure to contact him/her within seventy-two (72) hours exists, the MRO

shall direct the analysis of the split specimen. The MRO will review the confirmed positive test result to determine whether an acceptable medical reason for the positive result exists. The MRO shall confirm and report a positive test result to the DER and the employee when no legitimate medical reason for a positive test result as received from the testing laboratory exists.

- e. If, after making reasonable efforts and documenting those efforts, the MRO is unable to reach the donor directly, the MRO must contact the DER who will direct the donor to contact the MRO. If the DER is unable to contact the donor, the donor will be suspended from performing safety-sensitive functions.
- f. The MRO may confirm the test as a positive without having communicated directly with the donor about the test results under the following circumstances:
 - (1) The donor expressly declines the opportunity to discuss the test results;
 - (2) The donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours of being instructed to do so by the DER; or
 - (3) The MRO and the DER, after making and documenting all reasonable efforts, have not been able to contact the donor within ten (10) days of the date the confirmed test result was received from the laboratory.

2. Alcohol Testing

[Note: The DOT Alcohol Testing Form (ATF) must be used for every DOT alcohol test. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 40.225]

- a. The federal alcohol testing regulations require testing to be administered by a BAT using an EBT or an STT using an ASD. EBTs and ASDs can be used for screening tests but only EBTs can be used for confirmation tests.
- b. Any test result less than 0.02 alcohol concentration is considered a “negative” test.
- c. If the donor is unable to provide sufficient saliva for an ASD, the DER will immediately arrange to use an EBT. If the donor attempts and fails to provide an adequate amount of breath, the school district will direct the donor to obtain a written evaluation from a licensed physician to determine if the donor’s inability to provide a breath sample is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test.

- d. If the screening test results show alcohol concentration of 0.02 or higher, a confirmatory test conducted on an EBT will be required to be performed between fifteen (15) and thirty (30) minutes after the completion of the screening test.
- e. Alcohol tests are reported directly to the DER.

J. Driver/Driver Applicant Rights

- 1. All drivers and driver applicants subject to the controlled substances testing provisions of this policy who receive a confirmed positive test result for the use of controlled substances have the right to request, at the driver's or driver applicant's expense, a confirming retest of the split urine sample. If the confirming retest is negative, no adverse action will be taken against the driver, and a driver applicant will be considered for employment.

*[Note: The limitation on discharge in Paragraph 2., below, is contained solely in Minnesota law. State law is preempted by federal laws and regulations as it relates to drivers of commercial motor vehicles (such as bus drivers). See **Minnesota Statutes Minn. Stat. § 221.031, Subd. Subdivision 10**. Nevertheless, school districts may decide to comply with the state law requirements for various reasons (such as to treat all school district employees equally since employees subject to testing only under state law are accorded these additional rights). Consultation with the school district's legal counsel is recommended.]*

- 2. The school district will not discharge a driver who, for the first time, receives a confirmed positive drug or alcohol test UNLESS:
 - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with the SAP; and
 - b. The employee refuses to participate in the recommended program, or fails to successfully complete the program as evidenced by withdrawal before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
 - c. This limitation on employee discharge does not bar discharge of an employee for reasons independent of the first confirmed positive test result.

K. Testing Laboratory

The testing laboratory for controlled substances will be [*name, address, telephone number*], which is a laboratory certified by the Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA to perform controlled substances testing pursuant to federal regulations.

L. Confidentiality of Test Results

All alcohol and controlled substances test results and required records of the drug and alcohol testing program are considered confidential information under federal law and private data on individuals as that phrase is defined in **Minnesota Statute Chapter Minn. Stat. Ch. 13**. Any information concerning the individual’s test results and records shall not be released without written permission of the individual, except as provided for by regulation or law.

M. Recordkeeping Requirements and Retention of Records

1. The school district shall keep and maintain records in accordance with the federal regulations in a secure location with controlled access.

[Note: The federal recordkeeping requirements for school districts are detailed in the federal regulations 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections ~~C.F.R. § 382.401 et seq. and 40.331~~. The DOT publishes a guide to the recordkeeping requirements of mandatory drug and alcohol testing for persons with a commercial driver’s license as part of its Alcohol & Drugs: DOT Compliance Manual.]

2. The required records shall be retained for the following minimum periods:

Basic records	5 years
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“Basic records” includes records of: (a) alcohol test results with concentration of 0.02 or greater; (b) verified positive drug test results; (c) refusals to submit to required tests (including substituted or adulterated drug test results); (d) SAP reports; (e) all follow-up tests and schedules for follow-up tests; (f) calibration documentation; (g) administration of the testing programs; and (h) each annual calendar year summary.

Information obtained from previous employers	3 years
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Collection records Alcohol and controlled substance collection procedures	2 years
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Negative and cancelled drug controlled substance tests	1 year
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Alcohol tests with less than 0.02 concentration	1 year
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Education and training records	indefinite
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“Education and training records” must be maintained while the individuals perform the functions which require training and for the

two (2) years after ceasing to perform those functions.

3. Personal Information

Personal information about all individuals who undergo any required testing under this policy will be shared with the U.S. DOT Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse (“Clearinghouse”) as required under federal law, including:

- a. The name of the person tested;
- b. Any verified positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result;
- c. Any alcohol confirmation test with a BAC concentration of 0.04 or higher;
- d. Any refusal to submit to any test required hereunder;
- e. Any report by a supervisor of actual knowledge of use as follows
 - i. Any on-duty alcohol use;
 - ii. Any pre-duty alcohol use;
 - iii. Any alcohol use following an accident; and
 - iv. Any controlled substance use.
- f. Any report from a substance abuse professional certifying successful completion of the return-to-work process;
- g. Any negative return-to-duty test; and
- h. Any employer’s report of completion of follow-up testing.

N. Training

The school district shall ensure all persons designated to supervise drivers receive training. The designated employees shall receive at least sixty (60) minutes of training on alcohol misuse and at least sixty (60) minutes of training on controlled substances use. The training shall include physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of probable misuse of alcohol and use of controlled substances. The training will be used by the supervisors to make determinations of reasonable suspicion.

O. Consequences of Prohibited Conduct and Enforcement

1. Removal. The school district shall remove a driver who has engaged in prohibited conduct from safety-sensitive functions. A driver shall not be permitted to return to safety-sensitive functions until and unless the return-to-duty requirements of federal DOT regulations have been completed.

2. Referral, Evaluation, and Treatment

- a. A driver or driver applicant who has engaged in prohibited conduct shall be provided a listing of SAPs readily available to the driver or applicant and acceptable to the school district.

[Note: Subparagraphs b. and c., below, are based on the provisions of 49 Code of Federal Regulations section C.F.R. § 40.289.]

- b. If the school district offers a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following a violation, the driver must be evaluated by an SAP and the driver is required to successfully comply with the SAP's evaluation recommendations (education, treatment, follow-up evaluation(s), and/or ongoing services). The school district is not required to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.

[Note: School districts are not required to comply with state law governing drug and alcohol testing when the individuals are subject to the federal laws and regulations (i.e., bus drivers). If a school district, after consultation with legal counsel, chooses to comply voluntarily with these requirements, Subparagraph b., above, can be modified as follows:

b. The school district will offer a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following an employee's first positive test result on a confirmatory test if no reasons independent of the first test result for discharge exist. Otherwise, the school district may choose, but is not required, to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.]

- c. Drivers are responsible for payment for SAP evaluations and services unless a collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan provides otherwise.
- d. Drivers who engage in prohibited conduct also are required to comply with follow-up testing requirements.

3. Disciplinary Action

- a. Any driver who refuses to submit to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, or follow-up testing not only shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions, but also may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.
- b. Drivers who test positive with verification of a confirmatory test or

are otherwise found to be in violation of this policy or the federal regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.

- c. Nothing in this policy limits or restricts the right of the school district to discipline or discharge a driver for conduct which not only constitutes prohibited conduct under this policy but also violates the school district's other rules or policies.

P. Other Testing

The school district may request or require that drivers submit to drug and alcohol testing other than that required by federal law. For example, drivers may be requested or required to undergo drug and alcohol testing on an annual basis as part of a routine physical examination. Such additional testing of drivers will be conducted only in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in **Minnesota Statutes, sections Minn. Stat. §§ 181.950-181.957**. For purposes of such additional, non-mandatory testing, drivers fall within the definition of "other employees" covered by Section IV. of this policy.

[Note: When the testing of drivers complies with federal testing requirements and procedures, school districts clearly are exempt from the state drug and alcohol testing requirements in Minnesota Statutes, sections Minn. Stat. §§ 181.950-181.957. See Minnesota Statutes, Minn. Stat. §§ 221.031, Subd. subdivision 10. When testing beyond the federally mandated requirements, however, school districts still must comply with state law.]

Q. **Report to Clearinghouse**

The school district shall promptly submit to the Clearinghouse any record generated of an individual who refuses to take an alcohol or controlled substance test required under Title 49, Code of Federal Regulation, tests positive for alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of federal regulations, or violates subpart B of Part 382 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or any subsequent corresponding regulations).

R. **Annual Clearinghouse Query**

- 1. The school district must conduct a query of the Clearinghouse record at least once per year for information for all employees subject to controlled substance and alcohol testing related to CMV operation to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse about those employees. In lieu of a full query, the school district may obtain the individual driver's consent to conduct a limited query to satisfy the annual query requirement. The limited query will tell the employer whether there is information about the driver in the Clearinghouse but will not release that information to the employer. If the limited query shows that information exists in the Clearinghouse about the driver, the school district must conduct a full query within twenty-

four (24) hours or must not allow the driver to continue to perform any safety-sensitive function until the employee conducts the full query and the results confirm the driver's Clearinghouse record contains no prohibitions showing the driver has a verified positive, adulterated or substitute controlled substance test, no alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher, refuses to submit to a test, or was reported to have used alcohol on duty, before duty, following an accident or otherwise used a controlled substance in violation of the regulations except where the driver completed the SAP evaluation, referral and education/treatment process as required by the regulation. The school district shall comply with the query requirements set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations 382.701.

2. The school district may not access an individual's Clearinghouse record unless the school district (1) obtains the individual's prior written or electronic consent for access to the record; and (2) submits proof of the individual's consent to the Clearinghouse. The school district must retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the last query. The school district shall retain three (3) years a record of each request for records from the Clearinghouse and the information received pursuant to the request.

3. The school district shall protect the individual's privacy and the confidentiality of each Clearinghouse record it receives. The school district shall ensure that information contained in a Clearinghouse record is not divulged to a person or entity not directly involved in assessing and evaluating whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.

4. The school district may use an individual's Clearinghouse record only to assess and evaluate whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.

IV. DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES

The school district may request or require drug and alcohol testing for other school district personnel, i.e., employees who are not school bus drivers, or job applicants for such positions. The school district does not have a legal duty to request or require any employee or job applicant to undergo drug and alcohol testing as authorized in this policy, except for school bus drivers and other drivers of CMVs who are subject to federally mandated testing. (See Section III. of this policy.) If a school bus driver is requested or required to submit to drug or alcohol testing beyond that mandated by federal law, the provisions of Section IV. of this policy will be applicable to such testing.

A. Circumstances Under Which Drug or Alcohol Testing May Be Requested or Required:

1. General Limitations

a. The school district will not request or require an employee or job

applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing, unless the testing is done pursuant to this drug and alcohol testing policy; and is conducted by a testing laboratory ~~which participates in one of the programs that~~ **meets one of the criteria** listed in **Minnesota Statutes, section Minn. Stat. § 181.953, Subd. subdivision 1.**

- b. The school district will not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing on an arbitrary and capricious basis.

2. Job Applicant Testing

The school district may request or require any job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing, provided a job offer has been made to the applicant and the same test is requested or required of all job applicants conditionally offered employment for that position. If a job applicant has received a job offer ~~which~~ **that** is contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the school district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the event the job offer is subsequently withdrawn, the school district shall notify the job applicant of the reason for its action.

3. Random Testing

The school district may request or require employees to undergo drug and alcohol testing on a random selection basis only if they are employed in safety-sensitive positions.

4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing if the school district has a reasonable suspicion that the employee:

- a. is under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- b. has violated the school district's written work rules prohibiting the use, possession, sale, or transfer of drugs or alcohol while the employee is working or while the employee is on the school district's premises or operating the school district's vehicles, machinery, or equipment;
- c. has sustained a personal injury, as that term is defined in **Minnesota Statutes, section Minn. Stat. § 176.011, Subd. subdivision 16**, or has caused another employee to sustain a personal injury; or

- d. has caused a work-related accident or was operating or helping to operate machinery, equipment, or vehicles involved in a work-related accident.

5. Treatment Program Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing if the employee has been referred by the school district for chemical dependency treatment or evaluation or is participating in a chemical dependency treatment program under an employee benefit plan, in which case the employee may be requested or required to undergo drug and alcohol testing without prior notice during the evaluation or treatment period and for a period of up to two (2) years following completion of any prescribed chemical dependency treatment program.

6. Routine Physical Examination Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing as part of a routine physical examination provided the drug or alcohol test is requested or required no more than once annually and the employee has been given at least two weeks' written notice that a drug or alcohol test may be requested or required as part of the physical examination.

B. No Legal Duty to Test

The school district does not have a legal duty to request or require any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing.

C. Definitions

1. "Drug" means a controlled substance as defined in Minnesota Statutes, including medical cannabis, regardless of enrollment in the state registry program.
2. "Drug and aAlcohol testing," "dDrug or aAlcohol tTesting," and "dDrug or aAlcohol tTest" mean analysis of a body component sample ~~according to the standards established under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section~~ Minn. Stat. § 181.953, Subd. ~~subdivision~~ 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested.
3. "Other Employees" means any persons, independent contractors, or persons working for an independent contractor who perform services for the school district for compensation, either full time or part time, in whatever form, except for persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license,

and includes both professional and nonprofessional personnel. Persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license are primarily governed by the provisions of the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III.). To the extent that the drug and alcohol testing of persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license is not mandated by federal law and regulations, such testing shall be governed by Section IV. of this policy and the drivers shall fall within this definition of "other employees."

4. "Job ~~a~~Applicant" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who applies to become an employee of the school district in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license, and includes a person who has received a job offer made contingent on the person's passing drug or alcohol testing. Job applicants for positions requiring a commercial driver's license are governed by the provisions of the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III.).
5. "Positive ~~t~~Test ~~r~~Result" means a finding of the presence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested in levels at or above the threshold detection levels contained in the standards of one of the programs listed in **Minnesota Statutes, section Minn. Stat. § 181.953, Subd. subdivision 1.**
6. "Random ~~s~~Selection ~~b~~Basis" means a mechanism for selection of employees that:
 - a. results in an equal probability that any employee from a group of employees subject to the selection mechanism will be selected; and
 - b. does not give the school district discretion to waive the selection of any employee selected under the mechanism.
7. "Reasonable ~~s~~Suspicion" means a basis for forming a belief based on specific facts and rational inferences drawn from those facts.
8. "Safety-~~s~~Sensitive ~~p~~Position" means a job, including any supervisory or management position, in which an impairment caused by drug or alcohol usage would threaten the health or safety of any person.

D. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing and Consequences of Such Refusal

1. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license has the right to refuse drug and alcohol testing subject to the provisions contained in Paragraphs 2. and 3. of this Section

IV.D.

2. Consequences of an Employee's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing in the circumstances set out in the Random Testing, Reasonable Suspicion Testing, and Treatment Program Testing provisions of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate discharge.

3. Consequences of a Job Applicant's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any job applicant for a position which does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing pursuant to the Job Applicant Testing provision of this policy shall not be employed.

E. Reliability and Fairness Safeguards

1. Pretest Notice

Before requesting an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing, the school district shall provide the employee or job applicant with a Pretest Notice in the form of Attachment D to this policy on which to acknowledge that the employee or job applicant has received the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy.

2. Notice of Test Results

Within three (3) working days after receipt of a test result report from the testing laboratory, the school district shall inform in writing an employee or job applicant who has undergone drug or alcohol testing of a negative test result on an initial screening test or of a negative or positive test result on a confirmatory test.

3. Notice of and Right to Test Result Report

Within three (3) working days after receipt of a test result report from the testing laboratory, the school district shall inform in writing, an employee or job applicant who has undergone drug or alcohol testing of the employee or job applicant's right to request and receive from the school district a copy of the test result report on any drug or alcohol test.

4. Notice of and Right to Explain Positive Test Result

a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a

confirmatory test, the school district shall provide ~~him or her~~ **the individual** with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to explain the results and to submit additional information.

- b. The school district may request that the employee or job applicant indicate any over-the-counter or prescription medication that the individual is currently taking or has recently taken and any other information relevant to the reliability of, or explanation for, a positive test result.
- c. The employee may present verification of enrollment in the medical cannabis patient registry as part of the employee's explanation.
- d. **Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for marijuana. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if an employee claims to have only used nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid product.**
- e. Within three (3) working days after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, an employee or job applicant may submit information (in addition to any information already submitted) to the school district to explain that result.

5. Notice of and Right to Request Confirmatory Retests

- a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district shall provide ~~him or her~~ **the individual** with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her expense.
- b. An employee or job applicant may request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her own expense after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test. Within five (5) working days after notice of the confirmatory test result, the employee or job applicant shall notify the school district in writing of his or her intention to obtain a confirmatory retest. Within three (3) working days after receipt of the notice, the school district shall notify the original testing laboratory that the employee or job applicant has requested the laboratory to conduct the confirmatory retest or to transfer the sample to another laboratory licensed under **Minnesota Statutes, section** ~~Minn. Stat. § 181.953, Subd.~~ **subdivision 1** to conduct the confirmatory retest. The original testing laboratory shall ensure that appropriate chain-of-custody procedures are followed during transfer of the sample to the other laboratory. The

confirmatory retest must use the same drug or alcohol threshold detection levels as used in the original confirmatory test. If the confirmatory retest does not confirm the original positive test result, no adverse personnel action based on the original confirmatory test may be taken against the employee or job applicant.

6. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district, at the time of providing notice of the test results, shall also provide written notice to inform ~~him or her~~ **the individual** of other rights provided under Sections F. or G., below, whichever is applicable.

Attachments E and F to this policy provide the Notices described in Paragraphs 2. through 6. of this Section E.

F. Discharge and Discipline of Employees Whose Positions Do Not Require a Commercial Driver's License

1. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test.
2. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the employee shall be subject to discipline which includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge, pursuant to the provisions of this policy.
3. The school district may not discharge an employee for whom a positive test result on a confirmatory test was the first such result for the employee on a drug or alcohol test requested by the school district, unless the following conditions have been met:
 - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with a certified chemical abuse counselor or a physician trained in the diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency; and
 - b. The employee has either refused to participate in the counseling or rehabilitation program or has failed to successfully complete the program, as evidenced by withdrawal from the program before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
4. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1., the school district may temporarily suspend the tested employee or transfer that employee to another position at the same

rate of pay pending the outcome of the confirmatory test and, if requested, the confirmatory retest, provided the school district believes that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the employee, co-employees or the public. An employee who has been suspended without pay must be reinstated with back pay if the outcome of the confirmatory test or requested confirmatory retest is negative.

5. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of medical history information or the employee's status as a patient enrolled in the medical cannabis registry program revealed to the school district, unless the employee was under an affirmative duty to provide the information before, upon, or after hire, or failing to do so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the school district to lose money or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.
6. The school district may not discriminate against any employee in termination, discharge, or any term of condition of employment or otherwise penalize an employee based upon an employee registered patient's positive drug test for cannabis components or metabolites, unless the employee used, possessed, or was impaired by medical cannabis on school district property during the hours of employment.
7. An employee must be given access to information in ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** personnel file relating to positive test result reports and other information acquired in the drug and alcohol testing process and conclusions drawn from and actions taken based on the reports or other acquired information.

G. Withdrawal of Job Offer for an Applicant for a Position That Does Not Require a Commercial Driver's License

If a job applicant has received a job offer made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the school district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district may withdraw the job offer.

H. Chain-of-Custody Procedures

The school district has established its own reliable chain-of-custody procedures to ensure proper record keeping, handling, labeling, and identification of the samples to be tested. The procedures require the following:

1. Possession of a sample must be traceable to the employee from whom the sample is collected, from the time the sample is collected through the time the sample is delivered to the laboratory;

2. The sample must always be in the possession of, must always be in view of, or must be placed in a secure area by a person authorized to handle the sample;
3. A sample must be accompanied by a written chain-of-custody record; and
4. Individuals relinquishing or accepting possession of the sample must record the time the possession of the sample was transferred and must sign and date the chain-of-custody record at the time of transfer.

I. Privacy, Confidentiality and Privilege Safeguards

1. Privacy Limitations

A laboratory may only disclose to the school district test result data regarding the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol or their metabolites in a sample tested.

2. Confidentiality Limitations

With respect to employees and job applicants, test result reports and other information acquired in the drug or alcohol testing process are private data on individuals as that phrase is defined in **Minnesota Statutes Chapter ~~Minn. Stat. Ch.~~ 13**, and may not be disclosed by the school district or laboratory to another employer or to a third-party individual, governmental agency, or private organization without the written consent of the employee or job applicant tested.

3. Exceptions to Privacy and Confidentiality Disclosure Limitations

Notwithstanding Paragraphs 1. and 2., evidence of a positive test result on a confirmatory test may be: (1) used in an arbitration proceeding pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, an administrative hearing under **Minnesota Statutes Chapter ~~Minn. Stat. Ch.~~ 43A** or other applicable state or local law, or a judicial proceeding, provided that information is relevant to the hearing or proceeding; (2) disclosed to any federal agency or other unit of the United States government as required under federal law, regulation or order, or in accordance with compliance requirements of a federal government contract; and (3) disclosed to a substance abuse treatment facility for the purpose of evaluation or treatment of the employee.

4. Privilege

Positive test results from the school district drug or alcohol testing program may not be used as evidence in a criminal action against the employee or job applicant tested.

J. Notice of Testing Policy to Affected Employees

The school district shall provide written notice of this drug and alcohol testing policy to all affected employees upon adoption of the policy, to a previously non-affected employee upon transfer to an affected position under the policy, and to a job applicant upon hire and before any testing of the applicant if the job offer is made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing. Affected employees and applicants will acknowledge receipt of this written notice in the form of Attachment G to this policy.

V. POSTING

The school district shall post notice in an appropriate and conspicuous location on its premises that it has adopted a drug and alcohol testing policy and that copies of the policy are available for inspection during regular business hours by its employees or job applicants in its personnel office or other suitable locations.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 43A (State Personnel Management)
Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (**Definitions**; Medical Cannabis; ~~Definitions~~)
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (**Limitations**; Medical Cannabis; ~~Limitations~~)
Minn. Stat. § 152.32 (Protections for Registry Program Participation)
Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 16 (Definitions; Personal Injury)
Minn. Stat. §§ 181.950-181.957 (Drug and Alcohol Testing in the Workplace)
Minn. Stat. § 221.031 (Motor Carrier Rules)
49 U.S.C. § 31306 (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)
49 U.S.C. § 31306a (National Clearinghouse for Controlled Substance and Alcohol Test Results of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators)
49 U.S.C. § 521(b) (Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violations)
49 C.F.R. Parts 40 and 382 (Department of Transportation Rules Implementing Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)

Cross-References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)

Policy adopted: June 8, 1998

Revised: February 11, 2002, May 2008, June 2011

Reviewed: Oct. 2016, December 9, 2019

Independent School District No. 110
Waconia, MN 55387

1.B. 424 License Status

Presenter: Dr. Enid
Schonewise, Director
of Human Resources

424 LICENSE STATUS

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

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that qualified teachers are employed by the school district and to fulfill its duty to ascertain the licensure status of its teachers. A school board that employs a teacher who does not hold a valid teaching license or permit places itself at risk for a reduction in state aid. This policy does not negate a teacher's duty and responsibility to maintain a current and valid teaching license.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. A qualified teacher is one holding a valid license to perform the particular service for which the teacher is employed by the school district.
- B. No person shall be a qualified teacher until the school district verifies, through the Minnesota education licensing system available on the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board website, that the person is a qualified teacher consistent with state law.
- C. The school district has a duty to ascertain the licensure status of its teachers and ensure that the school district's teacher license files are up to date. The school district shall establish a procedure for annually reviewing its teacher license files to verify that every teacher's license is current and appropriate to the particular service for which the teacher is employed by the school district.
- D. The school district must annually report to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board: (1) all new teacher hires and terminations, including layoffs, by race and ethnicity; and (2) the reasons for all teacher resignations and requested leaves of absence. The report must not include data that would personally identify individuals.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule for the annual review of teacher licenses.
- B. Where it is discovered that a teacher's license will expire within one year from the date of the annual review, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee will advise the teacher in writing of the approaching expiration and that the teacher must complete the renewal process and file the license with the superintendent prior to the expiration of the current license. However, failure to provide this notice does not relieve a teacher from his/her duty and responsibility of ensuring that his/her teaching license is valid, current and appropriate to his/her teaching assignment.

- C. If it is discovered that a teacher's license has expired, the superintendent will immediately investigate the circumstances surrounding the lack of license and will take appropriate action. The teacher shall be advised that the teacher's failure to have the license reinstated will constitute gross insubordination, inefficiency and willful neglect of duty which are grounds for immediate discharge from employment.

- D. The duty and responsibility of maintaining a current and valid teaching license appropriate to the teaching assignment as required by this policy shall remain with the teacher, notwithstanding the superintendent's failure to discover a lapsed license or license that does not support the teaching assignment. A teacher's failure to comply with this policy may be grounds for the teacher's immediate discharge from employment.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 122A.16 (Qualified Teacher Defined)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.22 (District Verification of Teacher Licenses)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 13 (Employment; Contracts; Termination – Immediate Discharge)
Minn. Stat. § 127A.42 (Reduction of Aid for Violation of Law)
Vettleson v. Special Sch. Dist. No. 1, 361 N.W.2d 425 (Minn. App. 1985)
Lucio v. School Bd. of Independent Sch. Dist. No. 625, 574 N.W.2d 737 (Minn. App. 1998)
In the Matter of the Proposed Discharge of John R. Statz (Christine D. VerPloeg), June 8, 1992, *affirmed*, 1993 WL 129639 (Minn. App. 1993)

Cross References:

Policy Adopted: May 2008
Revised: Nov 2016 / December 2019 / March 2023
Independent School District
Waconia, MN

1.C. 513 Student Promotion, Retention, and Program
Design

Presenter: Erika
Nevig, Director of
Educational Services

513 STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND PROGRAM DESIGN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents, and students regarding student promotion, retention, and program design.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board expects all students to achieve at an acceptable level of proficiency. Parental assistance, tutorial and remedial programs, counseling, and other appropriate services shall be coordinated and utilized to the greatest extent possible to help students succeed in school.

A. Promotion

Students who achieve at levels deemed acceptable by local and state standards shall be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of each school year.

B. Retention

Retention of a student may be considered when professional staff and parents feel that it is in the best interest of the student. Physical development, maturity, and emotional factors shall be considered, as well as scholastic achievement. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

C. Program Design

1. The superintendent, with participation of the professional staff and parents, shall develop and implement programs to challenge students that are consistent with the needs of students at every level. A process to assess and evaluate students for program assignment shall be developed in coordination with such programs. Opportunities for special programs and placement outside of the school district shall also be developed as additional options. All programs will be aligned with creating the World's Best Workforce.

2. The school district may identify students, locally develop programs and services addressing instructional and affective needs, provide staff development, and evaluate programs to provide gifted and talented students with challenging and appropriate educational programs and services.

23. The school district will **must** adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying students for participation in gifted and talented programs **and services consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11**. The guidelines should include the use of:
- a. multiple objective criteria; and
 - b. assessments and procedures that are valid and reliable, fair, and based on current theory and research. Assessments and procedures should be sensitive to under-represented groups, including, but not limited to, low-income, minority, twice-exceptional, and English learners.
34. The school district will **must** adopt procedures for the academic acceleration of gifted and talented students. These procedures will include how the school district will:
- a. assess a student's readiness and motivation for acceleration; and
 - b. match the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to a student to achieve the best type of academic acceleration for that student.
45. The school district will **must** adopt procedures **consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.02 for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted or talented learners consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2)**. ~~which describe the comprehensive evaluation in cognitive, social, and emotional development domains to help determine a child's ability to meet kindergarten grade expectations and progress to first grade in the subsequent year for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted and talented learners. The comprehensive evaluation must use valid and reliable instrumentation, be aligned with state kindergarten expectations, and include a parental report and teacher observations of the child's knowledge, skills, and abilities.~~ The procedures must be sensitive to under-represented groups.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.15 (Gifted and Talented Program) Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendents)

Cross References: 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 620 (Credit for Learning)

Policy Adopted: June 11, 2002

Reviewed Dec. 19, 2005, revised January 14, 2010, reviewed June 2018, revised February
2020, reviewed July 2023

Independent School District 110
Waconia, MN

1.D. 601 School District Curriculum and
Instructional Goals

Presenter: Erika
Nesvig, Director of
Educational Services

601 SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION GOALS

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

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish broad curriculum parameters for the school district that encompass the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law and are aligned with creating the world's best workforce.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is to establish the “world’s best workforce” in which all learning in the school district should be directed and for which all school district learners should be held accountable.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Academic standard” means a summary description of student learning in a required content area or elective content area.
- B. “Antiracist” means actively working to identify and eliminate racism in all forms in order to change policies, behaviors, and beliefs that perpetuate racist ideas and actions.
- C. “Benchmark” means specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band.
- D. “Culturally sustaining” means integrating content and practices that infuse the culture and language of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities who have been and continue to be harmed and erased through the education system.
- E. “Curriculum” means district or school adopted programs and written plans for providing students with learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge, skills, and career and college readiness.
- F. “Ethnic studies” as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.25, has the same meaning for purposes of this section. Ethnic studies curriculum may be integrated in existing curricular opportunities or provided through additional curricular offerings.
- G. “Experiential learning” means learning for students that includes career exploration

through a specific class or course or through work-based experiences such as job shadowing, mentoring, entrepreneurship, service learning, volunteering, internships, other cooperative work experience, youth apprenticeship, or employment.

H. “Institutional racism” means structures, policies, and practices within and across institutions that produce outcomes that disadvantage those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

I. “Instruction” means methods of providing learning experiences that enable students to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements **including applied and experiential learning**.

J. “Performance measures” are measures to determine school district and school site progress in striving to create the world’s best workforce and must include at least the following:

1. the size of the academic achievement gap; ~~and~~ rigorous course taking, including college-level advanced placement, international baccalaureate, postsecondary enrollment options, including concurrent enrollment, other rigorous courses of study or industry certification courses or programs, and enrichment experiences by student subgroup;
2. student performance on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments;
3. high school graduation rates; and
4. career and college readiness under ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ **Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.30, Subd. subdivision 1**.

K. “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.

~~H. “Experiential learning” means learning for students that includes career exploration through a specific class or course or through work-based experiences such as job shadowing, mentoring, entrepreneurship, service learning, volunteering, internships, other cooperative work experience, youth apprenticeship, or employment.~~

IV. LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN

A. The school board, at a public meeting, shall **must** adopt a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with creating the world’s best workforce and includes the following:

1. clearly defined school district and school site goals and benchmarks for instruction and student achievement for all student categories identified in **Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.345, subdivision 3, paragraph (b)(2).** ~~state and federal law;~~

[Note: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601, Section IV.B. and MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 address this requirement.]

2. a process to assess and evaluate each student's progress toward meeting state and local academic standards, assess and identify students for participation in gifted and talented programs **and services** and accelerate their instruction, adopt **early-admission** procedures **consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.15** ~~for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted and talented learners which are sensitive to under-represented groups,~~ and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of instruction in pursuit of student and school success and curriculum affecting students' progress and growth toward career and college readiness and leading to the world's best workforce;

[Note: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 addresses this requirement.]

3. a system to periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all instruction and curriculum, taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, principal evaluations under ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ **Minnesota Statutes** 123B.147, ~~Subd. subdivision~~ **subdivision** 3, students' access to effective teachers who are members of populations under-represented among the licensed teachers in the district or school and who reflect the diversity of enrolled students under ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ **Minnesota Statutes, section** 120B.35, ~~Subd. subdivision~~ **subdivision** 3(b)(2), and teacher evaluations under **Minnesota Statutes, section** ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ 122A.40, ~~Subd. subdivision~~ **subdivision** 8, or 122A.41, ~~Subd. subdivision~~ **subdivision** 5;

[Note: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 addresses this requirement.]

4. strategies for improving instruction, curriculum, and student achievement, including the English and, where practicable, the native language development and the academic achievement of English learners;

[Note: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 addresses this requirement.]

5. a process to examine the equitable distribution of teachers and strategies to ensure **children in low-income and minority children families, children in families of People of Color, and children in American Indian families** are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, ineffective, or out-of-field teachers;
6. education effectiveness practices that

- a. integrate high-quality instruction, ~~rigorous curriculum,~~ technology, and ~~curriculum that is rigorous, accurate, antiracist, and culturally sustaining;~~
 - b. ensure learning and work environments validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate cultural and community strengths for all students, families, and employees;
 - c. ~~provide~~ a collaborative professional culture that ~~develops and supports~~ ~~seeks to retain qualified, racially and ethnically diverse staff effective at working with diverse students while developing and supporting~~ teacher quality, performance, and effectiveness; and
7. an annual budget for continuing to implement the school district plan; and
8. identifying a list of suggested and required materials, resources, sample curricula, and pedagogical skills for use in kindergarten through grade 12 that accurately reflect the diversity of the state of Minnesota.

B. The school district is not required to include information regarding literacy in a plan or report required under this section, except with regard to the academic achievement of English learners.

~~School district site and school site goals shall include the following:~~

1. ~~All students will be required to demonstrate essential skills to effectively participate in lifelong learning.* These skills include the following:~~

~~*[*Note: The criteria for acceptable performance in basic skills areas may need to be modified for students with unique learning needs. These modifications will be reflected in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Rehabilitation Act Section 504 Accommodation plan.]*~~

- a. ~~reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing in the English language;~~
- b. ~~mathematical and scientific concepts;~~
- c. ~~locating, organizing, communicating, and evaluating information and developing methods of inquiry (i.e., problem solving);~~
- d. ~~creative and critical thinking, decision making, and study skills;~~
- e. ~~work readiness skills;~~
- f. ~~global and cultural understanding.~~

2. ~~Each student will have the opportunity and will be expected to develop and~~

apply essential knowledge that enables that student to:

- a. ~~live as a responsible, productive citizen and consumer within local, state, national, and global political, social, and economic systems;~~
 - b. ~~bring many perspectives, including historical, to contemporary issues;~~
 - c. ~~develop an appreciation and respect for democratic institutions;~~
 - d. ~~communicate and relate effectively in languages and with cultures other than the student's own;~~
 - e. ~~practice stewardship of the land, natural resources, and environment;~~
 - f. ~~use a variety of tools and technology to gather and use information, enhance learning, solve problems, and increase human productivity.~~
3. ~~Students will have the opportunity to develop creativity and self-expression through visual and verbal images, music, literature, world languages, movement, and the performing arts.~~
4. ~~School practices and instruction will be directed toward developing within each student a positive self-image and a sense of personal responsibility for:~~
- a. ~~establishing and achieving personal and career goals;~~
 - b. ~~adapting to change;~~
 - c. ~~leading a healthy and fulfilling life, both physically and mentally;~~
 - d. ~~living a life that will contribute to the well-being of society;~~
 - e. ~~becoming a self-directed learner;~~
 - f. ~~exercising ethical behavior.~~
5. ~~Students will be given the opportunity to acquire human relations skills necessary to:~~
- a. ~~appreciate, understand, and accept human diversity and interdependence;~~
 - b. ~~address human problems through team effort;~~
 - c. ~~resolve conflicts with and among others;~~

- d. — function constructively within a family unit;
- e. — promote a multicultural, gender fair, disability sensitive society.

[Note: School district and site goals example courtesy of the Winona School District.]

C. Every child is reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and multilingual learners and students receiving special education services are receiving support in achieving their individualized reading goals pursuant to Policy XXX (Reading and the Read Act)

~~Every child is reading at or above grade level no later than the end of grade 3, including English learners, and teachers provide comprehensive, scientifically based reading instruction, including a program or collection of instructional practices that is based on valid, replicable evidence showing that, when the programs or practices are used, students can be expected to achieve, at a minimum, satisfactory reading progress. The program or collection of practices must include, at a minimum, effective, balanced instruction in all five areas of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension), as well as instructional strategies for continuously assessing, evaluating, and communicating the student's reading progress and needs.~~

- ~~1. — The school district must identify, before the end of kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2, all students who are not reading at grade level. 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, unless a different reason for the reading difficulty has been identified.~~
- ~~2. — Students in grade 3 or higher who demonstrate a reading difficulty to a classroom teacher must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia, unless a different reason for the reading difficulty has been identified.~~

[Note: According to Minnesota statutes, dyslexia screening is to be conducted in a locally determined manner.]

- ~~3. — 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. The school district also must monitor the progress and provide reading instruction appropriate to the specific needs of English learners. The school district must use locally adopted, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive assessment and annually report summary assessment results to the Commissioner of Education by July 1.~~
- ~~4. — The school district must annually report to the Commissioner of Education by July 1 a summary of the district's efforts to screen and identify students who demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia using screening tools such as~~

those recommended by the Minnesota Department of Education's dyslexia specialist. With respect to students screened or identified under paragraph (1), the report must include:

- (a) a summary of the district's efforts to screen for dyslexia;
- (b) the number of students screened for that reporting year; and
- (c) the number of students demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia for that year.

5. ~~A student identified as having a reading difficulty must be provided with alternate instruction under Minn. Stat. § 125A.56, Subd. 1.~~

6. ~~At least annually, the school district must give the parent of each student who is not reading at or above grade level timely information about:~~

- a. ~~the student's reading proficiency as measured by a locally adopted assessment;~~
- b. ~~reading-related services currently being provided to the student and the student's progress; and~~
- c. ~~strategies for parents to use at home in helping their students succeed in becoming grade-level proficient in reading English and their native languages.~~

~~This provision may not be used to deny a student's right to a special education evaluation.~~

7. ~~For each student who is not reading at or above grade level, the school district shall provide reading intervention to accelerate student growth and reach the goal of reading at or above grade level by the end of the current grade and school year. If a student does not read at or above grade level by the end of grade 3, the school district must continue to provide reading intervention until the student reads at grade level. Intervention methods shall encourage family engagement and, where possible, collaboration with appropriate school and community programs. Intervention methods may include, but are not limited to, requiring attendance in summer school, intensified reading instruction that may require that the student be removed from the regular classroom for part of the school day, extended day programs, or programs that strengthen students' cultural connections.~~

~~*[Note: School districts are strongly encouraged, but not required, to provide personal learning plans, as provided in Paragraph 8.]*~~

8. The school district will provide a personal learning plan for a student who

~~is unable to demonstrate grade-level proficiency, as measured by the statewide reading assessment in grade 3. The school district will determine the format of the personal learning plan in collaboration with the student's educators and other appropriate professionals. The school district will develop the personal learning plan in consultation with the student's parent or guardian. The personal learning plan will address knowledge gaps and skill deficiencies through strategies such as specific exercises and practices during and outside of the school day, periodic assessments, and reasonable timelines. The personal learning plan may include grade retention if it is in the student's best interest. The student's school will maintain and regularly update and modify the personal learning plan until the student reads at grade level. This paragraph does not apply to a student under an Individualized Education Program.~~

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Reading Proficiently no Later than the End of Grade 3 **Read Act Goal and Interventions**)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30, Subd. 1 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.35, Subd. 3 (Student Academic Achievement and Growth)
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.147, Subd. 3 (Principals)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.56, Subd. 1 (Alternate Instruction Required)
20 U.S.C. § 5801, *et seq.* (National Education Goals 2000)
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 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)

Policy Adopted:
Revised: May 2012, Jan. 2016, July 2021
Independent School District No. 110
Waconia MN

Adopted:
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ia MN

1.E. 603 Curriculum Development

Presenter: Erika
Nesvig, Director of
Educational Services

603 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

[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 618-620 provide procedures to further implement the requirements of 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

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

IV. ~~District Advisory Committee~~ DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- A. The school board shall ~~shall~~ **must** 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 ~~D~~istrict ~~A~~advisory ~~C~~committee, to the extent possible, shall ~~shall~~ **must** reflect the diversity of the district and its school sites, include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents, and provide translation to the extent appropriate and practicable. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents shall ~~shall~~ **must** comprise at least two-thirds of ~~advisory~~ committee members.
- C. The ~~D~~istrict ~~A~~advisory ~~C~~committee shall ~~shall~~ **must** pursue community support to accelerate the academic and native literacy and achievement of English learners with varied needs, from young children to adults, consistent with Minnesota Statutes section [124D.59, subdivisions 2](#) and 2a.
- D. The ~~school~~ district may establish site teams as subcommittees of the ~~D~~istrict ~~A~~advisory ~~C~~committee.
- E. The ~~D~~istrict ~~A~~advisory ~~C~~committee shall ~~shall~~ **must** recommend to the school board
 1. rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals and measures consistent with Minnesota Statutes sections 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. strategies to ensure the curriculum is rigorous, accurate, antiracist, culturally sustaining, and reflects the diversity of the student population;
5. strategies to ensure that curriculum and learning and work environments validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate the cultural and community strengths of all racial and ethnic groups; and
6. program evaluations.

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

V. School Site Team-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 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-CURRICULLUM 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.~~

B. ~~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 for characteristics of dyslexia, unless a different reason for the reading difficulty has been identified. See Minnesota Statutes section 120B.12, Subd. 2.~~

CA. Students who do not meet or exceed Minnesota academic standards, as measured by 603-2

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

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Commented [KJ3R1]:

the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school, shall be informed that admission to a public school is free and available to any resident under 21 years of age or who meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 120A.20, Subd. **subdivision** 1(c). A student's plan under this section shall continue while the student is enrolled.

- DB.** 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.
- EC.** The superintendent shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to curriculum development.

Legal References: **Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)**
Minn. Stat. § 120B.10 (Findings; Improving Instruction and Curriculum)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process **for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce**)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Reading Proficiently No Later than the End of Grade 3)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125(f) (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; **Personal Learning Plans**)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.59 (Definitions)
Minn. Rules Part 3500.0550 (Inclusive Educational Program)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)
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 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)

Policy Adopted: January 2004 / July 2006
Revised: May 2012/Jan. 2016/Jan. 2023

Independent School District No. 110
Waconia, MN

1.F. 604 Instructional Curriculum

Presenter: Erika
Nesvig, Director of
Educational Services

604 INSTRUCTIONAL CURRICULUM

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the development of course offerings for students.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Instruction must be provided in at least the following subject areas:

1. ~~L~~anguage arts and basic communication skills including reading and writing, literature, and fine arts;
2. ~~M~~athematics and science;
3. ~~S~~ocial studies, including history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship that includes civics (see II.I.);
4. ~~H~~health and physical education;

[Note: Health curriculum may include child sexual abuse prevention in consultation with other federal, state, or local agencies and community-based organizations to identify research-based tools, curricula, and programs.]

5. The arts;
6. Career and technical education; and
7. World languages.

*[Note: **the school district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. World languages programs should be developed and implemented to acknowledge and reinforce the language proficiency and cultural awareness that non-English language speakers already possess and encourage students' proficiency in multiple world languages. Programs also must encompass indigenous American Indian languages and cultures, among other world languages and cultures. School districts may award Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificates or Minnesota World Language High Achievement Certificates consistent with Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section 120B.022, subdivision 1.**]*

B. The basic instructional program shall include all courses required for each grade level by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and all courses required in all elective subject areas. Instruction shall be provided in a nondiscriminatory manner, which includes a nonsexist and multicultural approach. In the presentation of subject matter (including controversial issues) teachers shall provide access to a variety of viewpoints, theories, ways of knowing, and methods of inquiry. Teachers shall foster sensitive communication by and among all students, and understand the influence of personal bias on student learning.

C. ~~P~~ublic ~~E~~lementary and middle schools shall **must** offer at least three, and require at least

two, of the following four art areas: dance, music, theater, and visual arts. High schools shall offer at least three, and require at least one, of the following five art areas: media arts, dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

- D. The school district must establish and regularly review its own standards for career and technical education (CTE) programs. Standards must align with CTE frameworks developed by the Department of Education, standards developed by national CTE organizations, or recognized industry standards.
- E. The school board, at its discretion, may offer additional courses in the instructional program at any grade level.
- F. Each instructional program shall be planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the school district and other relevant factors. Each program plan should contain goals and objectives, materials, minimum student competency levels, and methods for student evaluation.
- G. The superintendent [or designee] shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to instructional curriculum.
- H. The school district or charter school may not discriminate against or discipline a teacher or principal on the basis of incorporating into curriculum contributions of persons in a federally protected class or state protected class when the included contribution is in alignment with standards and benchmarks adopted under Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.021 and 120B.023.

III. REQUIRED ACADEMIC STANDARDS

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

dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

PARENTAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

The school district shall have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or to an adult student and, if the parent, guardian, or adult student objects to the content, to make reasonable arrangements with school personnel for alternative instruction. Alternative instruction may be provided by the parent, guardian, or adult student if the alternative instruction, if any, offered by the school board does not meet the concerns of the parent, guardian, or adult student. The school board is not required to pay for the costs of alternative instruction provided by a parent, guardian, or adult student. School personnel may not impose an academic or other penalty upon a student merely for arranging alternative instruction under this section. School personnel may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work.

IV. CPR AND AED INSTRUCTION

The school district will provide one-time cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) instruction as part of its grade 7 to 12 curriculum.

- A. In the school district's discretion, training and instruction may result in CPR certification.
- B. CPR and AED instruction must include CPR and AED training that have been developed:
 - 1. by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross and incorporate psychomotor skills to support the instruction; or
 - 2. using nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines for CPR and incorporate psychomotor skills to support the instruction. "Psychomotor skills" means hands-on practice to support cognitive learning; it does not mean cognitive-only instruction and training.
- C. The school district may use community members such as emergency medical technicians, paramedics, police officers, firefighters, and representatives of the Minnesota Resuscitation Consortium, the American Heart Association, or the American Red Cross, among others, to provide instruction and training.
- D. A school administrator may waive this curriculum requirement for a high school transfer student regardless of whether or not the student previously received instruction under this section, an enrolled student absent on the day the instruction occurred under this section, or an eligible student who has a disability.

[Note: If a school district requests resources, the Minnesota Resuscitation Consortium must provide them to the school district for instruction and training provided to students under this section.]

V. COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

- A. The school district shall assist all students by no later than grade 9 to explore their educational college and career interests, aptitudes, and aspirations and develop a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment. All students' plans must:
1. provide a comprehensive plan to prepare for and complete career and college-ready curriculum by meeting state and local academic standards and developing career and employment-related skills such as team-work, collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking, and good work habits;
 2. emphasize academic rigor and high expectations and inform the student, and the student's parent or guardian, if the student is a minor, of the student's achievement level score on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school;
 3. help students identify interests, aptitudes, aspirations, and personal learning styles that may affect their career and college-ready goals and postsecondary education and employment choices;
 4. set appropriate career and college-ready goals with timelines that identify effective means for achieving those goals;
 5. help students access education and career options;
 6. integrate strong academic content into career-focused courses and applied and experiential learning opportunities and integrate relevant career-focused courses and applied and experiential learning opportunities into strong academic content;
 7. help identify and access appropriate counseling and other supports and assistance that enable students to complete required coursework, prepare for postsecondary education and careers, and obtain information about postsecondary education costs and eligibility for financial aid and scholarship;
 8. help identify collaborative partnerships among pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools, postsecondary institutions, economic development agencies, and local and regional employers that support students' transitions to postsecondary education and employment and provide students with applied and experiential learning opportunities; and
 9. be reviewed and revised at least annually by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the school district to ensure that the student's course-taking schedule keeps the student making adequate progress to meet state and local academic standards and high school graduation requirements and with a reasonable chance to succeed with employment or postsecondary education without the need to first complete remedial course work.
- B. The school district may develop grade-level curricula or provide instruction that introduces students to various careers, but must not require any curriculum, instruction, or employment-related activity that obligates an elementary or secondary student to involuntarily select or pursue a career, career interest, employment goals, or related job training.

- C. Educators must possess the knowledge and skills to effectively teach all English learners in their classrooms. School districts must provide appropriate curriculum, targeted materials, professional development opportunities for educators, and sufficient resources to enable English learners to become career and college-ready.
- D. When assisting students in developing a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education and employment, school districts must recognize the unique possibilities of each student and ensure that the contents of each student's plan reflect the student's unique talents, skills, and abilities as the student grows, develops, and learns.
- E. If a student with a disability has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or standardized written plan that meets the plan components herein, the IEP satisfies the requirement, and no additional transition plan is needed.
- F. Students who do not meet or exceed the 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 the compulsory attendance law. A student's plan under this provision shall continue while a student is enrolled.

VI. CIVICS TEST

- A. A student enrolled in a public school must correctly answer at least 30 of 50 civics test questions. A school or district may record on a student's transcript that the student answered at least 30 of 50 civics test questions correctly.
- B. "Civics test questions" means 50 of the 100 questions that, as of January 1, 2015, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services officers use to select the questions they pose to applicants for naturalization so the applicants can demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and government, as required by federal law. The Learning Law and Democracy Foundation, in consultation with Minnesota civics teachers, must select by July 1 each year 50 of the 100 questions under this paragraph to serve as the state's civics test questions for the proximate school year and immediately transmit the 50 selected civics test questions to MDE and to the Legislative Coordinating Commission, which must post the 50 questions it receives on the Minnesota's Legacy website by August 1 of that year.
- C. The school district may exempt a student with disabilities from this requirement if the student's IEP team determines the requirement is inappropriate and establishes an alternative requirement.
- D. The school district may administer the civics test questions in a language other than English to students who qualify for English learner services.
- E. The school districts may administer civics test questions as part of the social studies curriculum.
- F. The school district must not prevent a student from graduating or deny a student a high school diploma for failing to correctly answer at least 30 of 50 civics test questions.

G. The school district cannot charge a fee related to this requirement.

[Note: This requirement is effective for students enrolling in grade 9 in the 2017-2018 school year and later.]

- Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Parental Curriculum Review)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.101 (Curriculum)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.022 (Elective Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks Implement, Supplement Statewide Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.236 (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic External Defibrillator Instruction)
- Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)

Policy Adopted: January 2004
revised July 2006, Jan. 2016, reviewed July 2020, revised Dec 2020, revised Dec 2022
Independent School District No. 110 Waconia, MN

1.G. 620 Credit for Learning

Presenter: Erika
Nesvig, Director of
Educational Services

620 CREDIT FOR LEARNING

I. PURPOSE

~~The purpose of this policy is to~~ This policy recognizes student achievement ~~which that~~ occurs in ~~Post-Secondary Enrollment Options~~ **postsecondary enrollment option** and other advanced enrichment programs. ~~The purpose of t~~This policy also ~~is to~~ recognizes student achievement ~~which that~~ occurs in other schools, in alternative learning sites, and in out-of-school experiences such as community organizations, work-based learning, and other educational activities and opportunities. ~~The purpose of t~~This policy also ~~is to~~ addresses ~~the transfer of student credit from out-of-state, private, or home schools and online learning programs and to address how the school district will recognize student achievement obtained outside of the school district.~~

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is to provide a process for awarding students credit toward graduation requirements for credits and grades students complete in other schools, ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary** or higher education institutions, other learning environments, and online courses and programs.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. “Accredited school” means a school that is accredited by an accrediting agency, recognized according to Minnesota Sections statute 123B.445 or recognized by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (Commissioner).

B. **“Concurrent enrollment” means nonsectarian courses in which an eligible pupil under subdivision 5 or 5b enrolls to earn both secondary and postsecondary credits, are taught by a secondary teacher or a postsecondary faculty member, and are offered at a high school for which the district is eligible to receive concurrent enrollment program aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.091.**

~~“Blended learning” is a form of digital learning that occurs when a student learns part time in a supervised physical setting and part time through digital delivery of instruction, or a student learns in a supervised physical setting where technology is used as a primary method to deliver instruction.~~

C. **“Course” means a course or program.**

~~“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of MDE.~~

~~D. “Digital learning” is learning facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of their learning and includes blended and online learning.~~

~~D~~E. **“Eligible institution” means a Minnesota public ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary****

institution, a private, nonprofit two-year trade and technical school granting associate degrees, an opportunities industrialization center accredited by an accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education, or a private, residential, two-year or four-year, liberal arts, degree-granting college or university located in Minnesota.

EF. “Nonpublic school” is a private school or home school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with the Minnesota compulsory attendance laws.

~~G.~~ “Online learning” is a form of digital learning delivered by an approved online learning provider.

~~H.~~ “Online learning provider” is a school district, an intermediate school district, an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that provides online learning to students and is approved by MDE to provide online learning courses.

FI. “Weighted grade” is a letter or numerical grade that is assigned a numerical advantage when calculating the grade point average.

IV. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

A. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Minnesota Public Secondary Schools

1. The school district will accept and transfer secondary credits and grades awarded to a student from another Minnesota public secondary school upon presentation of a certified transcript from the transferring public secondary school evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
2. Commensurate credits and grades awarded from another Minnesota public secondary school may be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.

B. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Schools

1. The school district will accept secondary credits and grades awarded to a student for courses successfully completed at a public school outside of Minnesota or an accredited nonpublic school upon presentation of a certified transcript from the transferring public school in another state or nonpublic school evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
 - a. When a determination is made that the content of the course aligns directly with school district graduation requirements, the student will be awarded commensurate credits and grades.
 - b. Commensurate credits and grades awarded from an accredited

nonpublic school or public school in another state may be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.

- c. In the event the content of a course taken at an accredited nonpublic school or public school in another state does not fully align with the content of the school district's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements. Credit that does not fully align with the school district's high school graduation requirements will not be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.
 - d. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, no credit will be provided to the student.
2. Students transferring from a non-accredited, nonpublic school shall receive credit from the school district upon presentation of a transcript or other documentation evidencing the course taken and grade and credit awarded.
- a. Students will be required to provide copies of course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples for determination of appropriate credit. In addition, students also may be asked to provide interviews/conferences with the student and/or student's parent and/or former administrator or teacher; review of a record of the student's entire curriculum at the nonpublic school; and review of the student's complete record of academic achievement.
 - b. Where the school district determines that a course completed by a student at a non-accredited, nonpublic school is commensurate with school district graduation requirements, credit shall be awarded, but the grade shall be "P" (pass).
 - c. In the event the content of a course taken at a non-accredited, nonpublic school does not fully align with the content of the school district's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements.
 - d. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which local high school graduation credit would be provided, no credit will be provided to the student.
 - e. Credit and grades earned from a non-accredited nonpublic school shall not be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.

- C. A student must provide the school with a copy of the student's grades in each course taken for secondary credit under this policy, including interim or nonfinal grades earned during the academic term.

V. ~~POST-SECONDARY~~ **POSTSECONDARY** ENROLLMENT CREDIT

- A. A student who satisfactorily completes a ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary** enrollment options course or program under Minnesota Sections statute 124D.09 that has been approved as meeting the necessary requirements is not required to complete other requirements of the ~~Minnesota Academic Standards content standards~~ **academic standards** corresponding to that specific rigorous course of study.
- B. Secondary credits granted to a student through a ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary** enrollment options course or program ~~that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement shall~~ **must** be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of a student completing the Minnesota Academic Standards, **and subject area requirements of the district.**
 - 1. Course credit will be considered by the school district only upon presentation of a certified transcript from an eligible institution evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
 - 2. Seven quarter or four semester ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary** credits shall equal at least one full year of high school credit. Fewer ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary** credits may be prorated.
 - 3. When a determination is made that the content of the ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary** course aligns directly with a required course for high school graduation, the commensurate credit and grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as a course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
 - 4. In the event the content of the post-secondary course does not fully align with the content of a high school course required for graduation but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the school district may provide elective credit and the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as an elective course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
 - 5. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the school district will notify the Commissioner, who shall determine the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.
 - 6. When secondary credit is granted for ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary** credits taken by a student, the school district will record those credits on the student's transcript as credits earned at a ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary**

institution.

- C. A list of the courses or programs meeting the necessary requirements may be obtained from the school district.
- D. By the earlier of (1) three weeks prior to the date by which a student must register for district courses for the following school year, or (2) March 1 of each year, the school district must provide up-to-date information on the district's website and the materials that are distributed to parents and students about the program, including information about enrollment requirements and the ability to earn postsecondary credit to all pupils in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11.

~~VI. CREDIT FROM ONLINE LEARNING COURSES~~

- ~~A. Secondary credits granted to a student through an online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement shall be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of a student completing the Minnesota Academic Standards.~~
- ~~B. Course credit will be considered only upon official documentation from the online learning provider evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded to the student.~~
- ~~C. When a student provides documentation from an online learning provider, the course credit and course grade shall be recorded and counted toward graduation credit requirements for all courses or programs that meet or exceed the school district's graduation requirements in the same manner as credits are awarded for students transferring from another Minnesota public school as set forth in Section IV.A. above.~~

VI. CREDIT FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Consistent with the career and technical pathways program, a student in grade 11 or 12 who is employed by an institutional long-term care or licensed assisted living facility, a home and community-based services and supports provider, a hospital or health system clinic, or a child care center may earn up to two elective credits each year toward graduation under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.024, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (7), at the discretion of the enrolling district. A student may earn one elective credit for every 350 hours worked, including hours worked during the summer. A student who is employed by an eligible employer must submit an application, in the form or manner required by the school district, for elective credit to the school district in order to receive elective credit. The school district must verify the hours worked with the employer before awarding elective credit.

VII. ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDIT

- A. The school district will grant academic credit to a student attending an accelerated

or advanced academic course offered by a higher education institution or a nonprofit public agency, other than the school district.

- B. Course credit will be considered only upon official documentation from the higher education institution or nonprofit public agency that the student successfully completed the course attended and passed an examination approved by the school district.
- C. When a determination is made that the content of the advanced academic course aligns directly with a required course for high school graduation, the commensurate credit and grade will be recorded on the student’s transcript as a course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
- D. In the event the content of the advanced academic course does not fully align with the content of a high school course required for graduation but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the school district may provide elective credit and the grade will be recorded on the student’s transcript as an elective course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
- E. If no comparable course is offered by the school district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the school district will notify the Commissioner and request a determination of the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.

VIII. WEIGHTED GRADES

- A. The school district offers weighted grades for courses that are identified as more rigorous or academically challenging as follows:

Advanced Placement (AP) and concurrent enrollment courses, as courses offered at Waconia High School that have the opportunity to be awarded college credit, have a high level of rigor and will be weighed at a value of 1.2 multiplier. Grades below a C are not weighted.

Types of weighted courses include:

- 1. Advanced Placement (AP) courses.
- 2. Concurrent enrollment courses (earn college credit while taking them in the high school environment), including CIS (University of MN), College Now (Southwest State University) along with other college courses offered on campus.

Grade	Non-Weighted Grade Value	*Weighted Grade Value
A	4.0	4.8
A-	3.67	4.40

B+	3.33	3.97
B	3.0	3.6
B-	2.67	3.20
C+	2.33	2.80
C	2.0	2.4
C-	1.67	1.67
D+	1.33	1.33
D	1.0	1.0
D-	.67	.67

*Grade weights will be applied to applicable courses starting in the 2024-25 school year and forward. Courses taken prior to fall of 2024 are not eligible for weighted grades.

- B. The school district will update its registration guide prior to registration each school year with a listing of the courses for which a student may earn a weighted grade.

IX. PROCESS FOR AWARDING CREDIT

- A. The building principal will be responsible for carrying out the process to award credits and grades pursuant to this policy. The building principal will notify students in writing of the decision as to how credits and grades will be awarded.
- B. A student or the student’s parent or guardian may seek reconsideration of the decision by the building principal as to credits and/or grades awarded upon request of a student or the student’s parent or guardian if the request is made in writing to the superintendent within five school days of the date of the building principal’s decision. The request should set forth the credit and/or grade requested and the reason(s) why credit(s)/grade(s) should be provided as requested. Any pertinent documentation in support of the request should be submitted.
- C. The decision of the superintendent as to the award of credits or grades shall be a final decision by the school district and shall not be appealable by the student or student’s parent or guardian except as set forth in Section IX.D. below.
- D. If a student disputes the number of credits granted by the school district for a particular ~~post-secondary~~ **postsecondary** enrollment course, ~~online learning course~~, or advanced academic credit course, the student may appeal the school district’s decision to the Commissioner. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
- E. At any time during the process, the building principal or superintendent may ask for course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples from a course where content of the course is in question for purposes of determining alignment with graduation requirements or the number of credits to be granted. Students will not be provided credit until requested documentation is available for review, if requested.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota’s Students)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World’s Best Workforce)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.14 (Advanced Academic Credit)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 (Nonpublic Education Council)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03, Subd. 9 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.094 (Online Instruction)
~~Minn. Stat. § 124D.095 (Online Learning Option)~~
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 624 (Online **Instruction** Learning Options)

Policy adopted: Dec 2020, revised July 2023
Independent School District No. 110
Waconia, MN

1.H. 621 Literacy and the READ Act (New)

Presenter: Erika
Nesvig, Director of
Educational Services

621 LITERACY AND THE READ ACT

[Note: By the 2026-2027 school year, the school district must provide evidence-based reading instruction through a focus on student mastery of the foundational reading skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency, as well as the development of oral language, vocabulary, and reading comprehension skills. Students must receive evidence-based instruction that is proven to effectively teach children to read, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.1117 to 120B.124.]

I. PURPOSE

This policy aligns with Minnesota law established in the Read Act and on other topics related to reading.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school district recognizes the centrality of reading in a student's educational experience.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Evidence-based" means the instruction or item described is based on reliable, trustworthy, and valid evidence and has demonstrated a record of success in increasing students' reading competency in the areas of phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Evidence-based literacy instruction is explicit, systematic, and includes phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, spelling, fluency, vocabulary, oral language, and comprehension that can be differentiated to meet the needs of individual students. Evidence-based instruction does not include the three-cueing system, as defined in subdivision 16.
- B. "Fluency" means the ability of students to read text accurately, automatically, and with proper expression.
- C. "Foundational reading skills" includes phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and fluency. Foundational reading skills appropriate to each grade level must be mastered in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3. Struggling readers in grades 4 and above who do not demonstrate mastery of grade-level foundational reading skills must continue to receive explicit, systematic instruction to reach mastery.
- D. "Literacy specialist" means a person licensed by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board as a teacher of reading, a special education teacher, or a kindergarten through grade 6 teacher, who has completed professional development approved by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) in structured literacy. A literacy specialist employed by the department under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.123, subdivision 7, or by a district as a literacy lead, is not required to complete the approved training before August 30, 2025.
- E. "Literacy lead" means a literacy specialist with expertise in working with educators as

adult learners. A district literacy lead must support the district's implementation of the Read Act; provide support to school-based coaches; support the implementation of structured literacy, interventions, curriculum delivery, and teacher training; assist with the development of personal learning plans; and train paraprofessionals and other support staff to support classroom literacy instruction. A literacy lead may be employed by one district, jointly by two or more districts, or may provide services to districts through a partnership with the regional service cooperatives or another district.

- F. "Multitiered system of support" or "MTSS" means a systemic, continuous improvement framework for ensuring positive social, emotional, behavioral, developmental, and academic outcomes for every student. The MTSS framework provides access to layered tiers of culturally and linguistically responsive, evidence-based practices and relies on the understanding and belief that every student can learn and thrive. Through a MTSS at the core (Tier 1), supplemental (Tier 2), and intensive (Tier 3) levels, educators provide high quality, evidence-based instruction and intervention that is matched to a student's needs; progress is monitored to inform instruction and set goals and data is used for educational decision making.
- G. "Oral language," also called "spoken language," includes speaking and listening, and consists of five components: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.
- H. "Phonemic awareness" means the ability to notice, think about, and manipulate individual sounds in spoken syllables and words.
- I. "Phonics instruction" means the explicit, systematic, and direct instruction of the relationships between letters and the sounds they represent and the application of this knowledge in reading and spelling.
- J. "Progress monitoring" means using data collected to inform whether interventions are working. Progress monitoring involves ongoing monitoring of progress that quantifies rates of improvement and informs instructional practice and the development of individualized programs using state-approved screening that is reliable and valid for the intended purpose.
- K. "Reading comprehension" means a function of word recognition skills and language comprehension skills. It is an active process that requires intentional thinking during which meaning is constructed through interactions between the text and reader. Comprehension skills are taught explicitly by demonstrating, explaining, modeling, and implementing specific cognitive strategies to help beginning readers derive meaning through intentional, problem-solving thinking processes.
- L. "Structured literacy" means an approach to reading instruction in which teachers carefully structure important literacy skills, concepts, and the sequence of instruction to facilitate children's literacy learning and progress. Structured literacy is characterized by the provision of systematic, explicit, sequential, and diagnostic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and oral language development, and reading comprehension.
- M. "Three-cueing system," also known as "meaning structure visual (MSV)," means a method that teaches students to use meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues when attempting to read an unknown word.
- N. "Vocabulary development" means the process of acquiring new words. A robust

vocabulary improves all areas of communication, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Vocabulary growth is directly related to school achievement and is a strong predictor for reading success.

IV. READING SCREENER; PARENT NOTIFICATION AND INVOLVEMENT

- A. The school district must administer an approved evidence-based reading screener to students in kindergarten through grade 3 within the first six weeks of the school year, and again within the last six weeks of the school year. The screener must be one of the screening tools approved by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).
- B. The school district must identify any screener it uses in the district's annual literacy plan, and submit screening data with the annual literacy plan by June 15.
- C. Schools, at least biannually after administering each screener, must give the parent of each student who is not reading at or above grade level timely information about:
 - 1. the student's reading proficiency as measured by a screener approved by MDE;
 - 2. reading-related services currently being provided to the student and the student's progress; and
 - 3. strategies for parents to use at home in helping their student succeed in becoming grade-level proficient in reading in English and in their native language.
- D. The school district may not use this section to deny a student's right to a special education evaluation.

V. IDENTIFICATION AND REPORT

- A. Students enrolled in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3, including multilingual learners and students receiving special education services, must be universally screened for mastery of foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, oral language, and for characteristics of dyslexia as measured by a screening tool approved by MDE. The screening for characteristics of dyslexia may be integrated with universal screening for mastery of foundational skills and oral language.
- B. The school district must submit data on student performance in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3 on foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, and oral language to MDE in the annual local literacy plan submission due on June 15.
- C. Students in grades 4 and above, including multilingual learners and students receiving special education services, who do not demonstrate mastery of foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, and oral language, must be screened using a screening tool approved by MDE for characteristics of dyslexia and must continue to receive evidence-based instruction, interventions, and progress monitoring until the students achieve grade-level proficiency. A parent, in consultation with a teacher, may opt a student out of the literacy screener if the parent and teacher decide that continuing to screen would not be beneficial to the student. In such limited cases, the student must continue to receive progress monitoring and literacy interventions.

- D. Reading screeners in English, and in the predominant languages of school district students where practicable, must identify and evaluate students' areas of academic need related to literacy. The school district also must monitor the progress and provide reading instruction appropriate to the specific needs of multilingual learners. The school district must use an approved, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive screener and annually report summary screener results to the MDE Commissioner by June 15 in the form and manner determined by the MDE Commissioner.
- E. The school district must include in its literacy plan a summary of the district's efforts to screen, identify, and provide interventions to students who demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia as measured by a screening tool approved by MDE. With respect to students screened or identified under paragraph (a), the report must include:
 - 1. a summary of the school district's efforts to screen for dyslexia;
 - 2. the number of students universally screened for that reporting year;
 - 3. the number of students demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia for that year; and
 - 4. an explanation of how students identified under this subdivision are provided with alternate instruction and interventions under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.56, subdivision 1.

VI. INTERVENTION

- A. For each student identified under the screening identification process, the school district shall provide reading intervention to accelerate student growth and reach the goal of reading at or above grade level by the end of the current grade and school year.
- B. The school district must implement progress monitoring, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.1118, for a student not reading at grade level.
- C. The school district must use evidence-based curriculum and intervention materials at each grade level that are designed to ensure student mastery of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Starting July 1, 2023, if the school district purchases new literacy curriculum, or literacy intervention or supplementary materials, the curriculum or materials must be evidence-based as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.1118.
- D. If a student does not read at or above grade level by the end of the current school year, the school district must continue to provide reading intervention until the student reads at grade level. School district intervention methods shall encourage family engagement and, where possible, collaboration with appropriate school and community programs that specialize in evidence-based instructional practices and measure mastery of foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, and oral language.
- E. By the 2025-2026 school year, intervention programs must be taught by an intervention teacher or special education teacher who has successfully completed training in evidence-based reading instruction approved by MDE. Intervention may include but is not limited to requiring student attendance in summer school, intensified

reading instruction that may require that the student be removed from the regular classroom for part of the school day, extended-day programs, or programs that strengthen students' cultural connections.

- F. The school district must determine the format of the personal learning plan in collaboration with the student's educators and other appropriate professionals. The school must develop the learning plan in consultation with the student's parent or guardian. The personal learning plan must include targeted instruction that is evidence-based and ongoing progress monitoring, and address knowledge gaps and skill deficiencies through strategies such as specific exercises and practices during and outside of the regular school day, group interventions, periodic assessments or screeners, and reasonable timelines. The personal learning plan may include grade retention, if it is in the student's best interest; a student may not be retained solely due to delays in literacy or not demonstrating grade-level proficiency. A school must maintain and regularly update and modify the personal learning plan until the student reads at grade level. This paragraph does not apply to a student under an individualized education program.

VII. LOCAL LITERACY PLAN

- A. The school district must adopt a local literacy plan to have every child reading at or above grade level every year beginning in kindergarten and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals. The school district must update and submit the plan to the Commissioner of MDE by June 15 each year. The plan must be consistent with the Read Act, and include the following:
 - 1. a process to assess students' foundational reading skills, oral language, and level of reading proficiency and the screeners used, by school site and grade level, under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.123;
 - 2. a process to notify and involve parents;
 - 3. a description of how schools in the school district will determine the targeted reading instruction that is evidence-based and includes an intervention strategy for a student and the process for intensifying or modifying the reading strategy in order to obtain measurable reading progress;
 - 4. evidence-based intervention methods for students who are not reading at or above grade level and progress monitoring to provide information on the effectiveness of the intervention;
 - 5. identification of staff development needs, including a plan to meet those needs;
 - 6. the curricula used by school site and grade level;
 - 7. a statement of whether the school district has adopted a MTSS framework;
 - 8. student data using the measures of foundational literacy skills and mastery identified by MDE for the following students:
 - a. students in kindergarten through grade 3;

- b. students who demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia; and
 - c. students in grades 4 to 12 who are identified as not reading at grade level; and
 - 9. the number of teachers and other staff that have completed training approved by the department.
- B. The school district must post its literacy plan on the official school district website and submit it to the Commissioner of MDE using the template developed by the Commissioner beginning June 15, 2024.

VIII. STAFF TRAINING

- A. Beginning July 1, 2024, a school district must provide access to the training required under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.123, subdivision 5, to:
 - 1. intervention teachers working with students in kindergarten through grade 12;
 - 2. all classroom teachers of students in kindergarten through grade 3 and children in prekindergarten programs;
 - 3. special education teachers;
 - 4. curriculum directors;
 - 5. instructional support staff who provide reading instruction; and
 - 6. employees who select literacy instructional materials for a district.
- B. The school district must provide training from a menu of approved evidence-based training programs to all reading intervention teachers, literacy specialists, and other teachers and staff identified in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.12, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), by July 1, 2025; and by July 1, 2027, to other teachers in the school district, prioritizing teachers who work with students with disabilities, English learners, and students who qualify for the graduation incentives program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.68. The Commissioner of MDE may grant a school district an extension to these deadlines.
- C. By August 30, 2025, the school district must employ or contract with a literacy lead, or be actively supporting a designated literacy specialist through the process of becoming a literacy lead. The school board may satisfy the requirements of this subdivision by contracting with another school board or cooperative unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.24 for the services of a literacy lead by August 30, 2025. The school district literacy lead must collaborate with school district administrators and staff to support the school district's implementation of requirements under the Read Act.

IX. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- A. The school district must provide training programs on evidence-based reading instruction to teachers and instructional staff in accordance with subdivision 1, paragraph (b). The training must include teaching in the areas of phonemic awareness,

phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, reading comprehension, and culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy.

- B. The school district shall use the data under Article V. above to identify the staff development needs so that:
1. elementary teachers are able to implement explicit, systematic, evidence-based instruction in the five reading areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension with emphasis on mastery of foundational reading skills as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.1118 and other literacy-related areas including writing until the student achieves grade-level reading and writing proficiency;
 2. elementary teachers have sufficient training to provide students with evidence-based reading and oral language instruction that meets students' developmental, linguistic, and literacy needs using the intervention methods or programs selected by the school district for the identified students;
 3. licensed teachers employed by the school district have regular opportunities to improve reading and writing instruction;
 4. licensed teachers recognize students' diverse needs in cross-cultural settings and are able to serve the oral language and linguistic needs of students who are multilingual learners by maximizing strengths in their native languages in order to cultivate students' English language development, including oral academic language development, and build academic literacy; and
 5. licensed teachers are well trained in culturally responsive pedagogy that enables students to master content, develop skills to access content, and build relationships.
- C. The school district must provide staff in early childhood programs sufficient training to provide children in early childhood programs with explicit, systematic instruction in phonological and phonemic awareness; oral language, including listening comprehension; vocabulary; and letter-sound correspondence.

X. LITERACY INCENTIVE AID USES

The school district must use its literacy incentive aid to support implementation of evidence-based reading instruction. The following are eligible uses of literacy incentive aid:

1. training for kindergarten through grade 3 teachers, early childhood educators, special education teachers, reading intervention teachers working with students in kindergarten through grade 12, curriculum directors, and instructional support staff that provide reading instruction, on using evidence-based screening and progress monitoring tools;
2. evidence-based training using a training program approved by MDE;
3. employing or contracting with a literacy lead, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.1118;
4. materials, training, and ongoing coaching to ensure reading interventions under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.56, subdivision 1, are evidence-based; and

costs of substitute teachers to allow teachers to complete required training during the teachers' contract day.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.1118 (Read Act Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Read Act Goal and Interventions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.123 (Read Act Implementation)
Minn. Stat. § 123A.24 (Withdrawing from a Cooperative Unit; Appealing Denial of Membership)
Minn. Stat. §124D.68 (Graduation Incentives Program)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.98 (Literacy Incentive Aid)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.56 (Alternate Instruction Required before Assessment Referral)

Cross References: None

1.I. 624 Online Instruction (New)

Presenter: Erika
Nesvig, Director of
Educational Services

New Policy June 2023 (completely replaces our current 624 Online Learning Options)

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 624

Orig. 2023

Revised: _____

624 ONLINE INSTRUCTION

[Note: In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature repealed the Online Learning Option Act (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.095) and replaced it with the Online Instruction Act (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.094). This policy fully replaces the old Model Policy 624].

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and govern online instruction options of students enrolled in the school district for purposes of compulsory attendance and address enrollment of students with an online instruction site for supplemental or full-time online learning.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district shall not prohibit an enrolled student from applying to enroll in online instruction.
- B. The school district shall grant academic credit for completing the requirements of an online instruction course or program.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Blended instruction" means a form of digital instruction that occurs when a student learns part-time in a supervised physical setting and part-time through online instruction under paragraph (E).
- B. "Digital instruction" means instruction facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of learning and includes blended and online instruction.
- C. "Enrolling district" means the school district in which a student is enrolled under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 4.
- D. "Online course syllabus" means a written document that identifies the state academic standards taught and assessed in a supplemental online course under paragraph (I); course content outline; required course assessments; instructional methods; communication procedures with students, guardians, and the enrolling district under paragraph (C); and supports available to the student.
- E. "Online instruction" means a form of digital instruction that occurs when a student learns primarily through digital technology away from a supervised physical setting.
- F. "Online instructional site" means a site that offers courses using online instruction under paragraph (E) and may enroll students receiving online instruction under paragraph (E).
- G. "Online teacher" means an employee of the enrolling district under paragraph (C) or the supplemental online course provider under paragraph (J) who holds the appropriate licensure under Minnesota Rules, chapter 8710, and is trained to provide online instruction under paragraph (E).

- H. "Student" means a Minnesota resident enrolled in a school defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 4, in kindergarten through grade 12 up to the age of 21.
- I. "Supplemental online course" means an online learning course taken in place of a course provided by the student's enrolling district under paragraph (C).
- J. "Supplemental online course provider" means a school district, an intermediate school district, an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that is authorized by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to provide supplemental online courses under paragraph (I).

IV. DIGITAL INSTRUCTION

- A. An enrolling district may provide digital instruction, including blended instruction and online instruction, to the district's own enrolled students. Enrolling districts may establish agreements to provide digital instruction, including blended instruction and online instruction, to students enrolled in the cooperating schools.
- B. When online instruction is provided, an online teacher shall perform all duties of teacher of record under Minnesota Rules, part 8710.0310. Unless the Commissioner of MDE grants a waiver, a teacher providing online instruction shall not instruct more than 40 students in any one online learning course or section.
- C. Students receiving online instruction full time shall be reported as enrolled in an online instructional site.
- D. Curriculum used for digital instruction shall be aligned with Minnesota's current academic standards and benchmarks.
- E. Digital instruction shall be accessible to students under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
- F. An enrolling district providing digital instruction and a supplemental online course provider shall assist an enrolled student whose family qualifies for the education tax credit under Minnesota Statutes, section 290.0674 to acquire computer hardware and educational software so they may participate in digital instruction. Funds provided to a family to support digital instruction or supplemental online courses may only be used for qualifying expenses as determined by the provider. Nonconsumable materials purchased with public education funds remain the property of the provider. Records for any funds provided must be available for review by the public or MDE.
- G. An enrolling district providing digital instruction shall establish and document procedures for determining attendance for membership and keep accurate records of daily attendance under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.21.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE COURSES

- A. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 124D.03 and 124D.08 and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 124E, procedures for applying to take supplemental online courses other than those offered by the student's enrolling district are as provided in this subdivision.
- B. Any kindergarten through grade 12 student may apply to take a supplemental online course. The student, or the student's parent or guardian for a student under age 17, must submit an application for the proposed supplemental online course or courses. A student may:

1. apply to take an online course from a supplemental online course provider that meets or exceeds the academic standards of the course in the enrolling district they are replacing;
 2. apply to take supplemental online courses for up to 50 percent of the student's scheduled course load; and
 3. apply to take supplemental online courses no later than 15 school days after the student's enrolling district's term has begun. An enrolling district may waive the 50 percent course enrollment limit or the 15-day time limit.
- C. A student taking a supplemental online course must have the same access to the computer hardware and education software available in a school as all other students in the enrolling district.
- D. A supplemental online course provider must have a current, approved application to be listed by MDE as an approved provider. The supplemental online course provider must:
1. use an application form specified by MDE;
 2. notify the student, the student's guardian if they are age 17 or younger, and enrolling district of the accepted application to take a supplemental online course within ten days of receiving a completed application;
 3. notify the enrolling district of the course title, credits to be awarded, and the start date of the online course. A supplemental online course provider must make the online course syllabus available to the enrolling district;
 4. request applicable academic support information for the student, including a copy of the IEP, EL support plan, or 504 plan; and
 5. track student attendance and monitor academic progress and communicate with the student, the student's guardian if they are age 17 or younger, and the enrolling district's designated online learning liaison.
- E. A supplemental online course provider may limit enrollment if the provider's school board or board of directors adopts by resolution specific standards for accepting and rejecting students' applications. The provisions may not discriminate against any protected class or students with disabilities.
- F. A supplemental online course provider may request that MDE review an enrolling district's written decision to not accept a student's supplemental online course application. The student may participate in the supplemental online course while the application is under review. Decisions shall be final and binding for both the enrolling district and the supplemental online course provider.
- G. A supplemental online course provider must participate in continuous improvement cycles with MDE.

VI. ENROLLING DISTRICT

- A. An enrolling district may not restrict or prevent a student from applying to take supplemental online courses.
- B. An enrolling district may request an online course syllabus to review whether the academic standards in the online course meet or exceed the academic standards in the course it would replace at the enrolling district.
- C. Within 15 days after receiving notice of a student applying to take a supplemental online

course, the enrolling district must notify the supplemental online course provider whether the student, the student's guardian, and the enrolling district agree that academic standards in the online course meet or exceed the academic standards in the course it would replace at the enrolling district. If the enrolling district does not agree that the academic standards in the online course meet or exceed the academic standards in the course it would replace at the enrolling district, then:

1. the enrolling district must provide a written explanation of the district's decision to the student, the student's guardian, and the supplemental online course provider; and
 2. the online provider must provide a response to the enrolling district explaining how the course or program meets the graduation requirements of the enrolling district.
- D. An enrolling district may reduce the course schedule of a student taking supplemental online courses in proportion to the number of supplemental online learning courses the student takes.
- E. An enrolling district must appoint an online learning liaison who:
1. provides information to students and families about supplemental online courses;
 2. provides academic support information including IEPs, EL support plans, and 504 plans to supplemental online providers; and
 3. monitors attendance and academic progress, and communicates with supplemental online learning providers, students, families, and enrolling district staff.
- F. An enrolling district must continue to provide support services to students taking supplemental online courses as they would for any other enrolled student including support for English learners, case management of an individualized education program, and meal and nutrition services for eligible students.
- G. An online learning student must receive academic credit for completing the requirements of a supplemental online learning course. If a student completes an online learning course that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or the grade progression requirement at the enrolling district, that standard or requirement is met.
- H. Secondary credits granted to a supplemental online learning student count toward the graduation and credit requirements of the enrolling district. The enrolling district must apply the same graduation requirements to all students, including students taking supplemental online courses.
- I. An enrolling district must provide access to extracurricular activities for students taking supplemental online courses on the same basis as any other enrolled student.

VII. REPORTING

Courses that include blended instruction and online instruction must be reported in the manner determined by the Commissioner of MDE.

LEGAL REFERENCES:	Minn. Stat. § 120A.21 (Enrollment of a Student in Foster Care)
	Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
	Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
	Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Act)
	Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Board's Approval to Enroll in

Nonresident District; Exceptions)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.094 (Online Instruction Act)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 124E (Charter Schools)
Minn. Rules Ch. 8710 (Teacher and Other School Professional
Licensing)

CROSS REFERENCES:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)