Policy Committee

Monday, November 30, 2026 6:00 PM
Waconia City Hall, 201 S Vine Street, Waconia, MN 55387

1. **806 Crisis Management Policy**

806 CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for school district administration, school employees, students, school board members, and community members to address a wide range of potential crisis situations in the school district. The step-by-step procedures suggested by this Policy will provide guidance to each school building in drafting crisis management plans to coordinate protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency or potential crisis situation.

The school district will, to the extent possible, engage in ongoing emergency planning within the school district and with emergency responders and other relevant community organizations. The school district will ensure that relevant emergency responders in the community have access to their building-specific crisis management plans and will provide training to school district staff to enable staff to act appropriately in the event of a crisis.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. The Policy and Plans

The school district's Crisis Management Policy has been created in consultation with local community response agencies and other appropriate individuals and groups that would likely be involved in the event of a school emergency. It is designed so that each building administrator has tailored building-specific crisis management plan to meet that building's specific situation and needs.

The school district's administration and/or the administration of each building shall maintain tailored building-specific crisis management plans. The building-specific crisis management plans will include general crisis procedures and crisis-specific procedures. Such crisis management plans shall be presented to the school board yearly. This Policy and the plans will be maintained and updated on an annual basis.

B. Elements of the District Crisis Management Policy

1. General Crisis Procedures

The Crisis Management Policy includes general crisis procedures for securing buildings, classroom evacuation, building evacuation, campus evacuation, and sheltering. The Policy designates the individual(s) who will determine when these actions will be taken. These district-wide procedures may be modified by building administrators when creating their building-specific crisis management plans. A communication system

will be in place to enable the designated individual to be contacted at all times in the event of a potential crisis, setting forth the method to contact the designated individual, the provision of at least two designees when the contact person is unavailable, and the method to convey contact information to the appropriate staff persons. The alternative designees may include members of the emergency first responder response team. A secondary method of communication should be included in the plan for use when the primary method of communication is inoperable. Each building in the school district will have access to a copy of the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) to assist in the development of building-specific crisis management plans.

All general crisis procedures will address specific procedures for the safe evacuation of children and employees with special needs such as physical, sensory, motor, developmental, and mental health challenges.

a. Lock-Down Procedures

Lock-down procedures will be used in situations where harm may result to persons inside the school building, such as a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespass, disturbance, or when determined to be necessary by the building administrator or his or her designee. The building administrator or designee will announce the lock-down over the public address system or other designated system. Code words will not be used. Provisions for emergency evacuation will be maintained even in

the event of a lock-down. Each building administrator will submit lock-down procedures for their building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

b. Evacuation Procedures

Evacuations of classrooms and buildings shall be implemented at the discretion of the building administrator or his or her designee. Each building's crisis management plan will include procedures for transporting students and staff a safe distance from harm to a designated safe area until released by the building administrator or designee. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency situation. The evacuation procedures should include specific procedures for children with special needs, including children with limited mobility (wheelchairs, braces, crutches, etc.), visual impairments, hearing impairments, and other sensory, developmental, or mental health needs. The evacuation procedures should also address transporting necessary medications for students that take medications during the school day.

c. Sheltering Procedures

Sheltering provides refuge for students, staff, and visitors within the school building during an emergency. Shelters are safe areas that maximize the safety of inhabitants. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency. The building administrator or designee will announce the need for sheltering over the public address system or other designated system. Each building administrator will submit sheltering procedures for the administrator's building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

2. Crisis-Specific Procedures

The Crisis Management Policy includes crisis-specific procedures for crisis situations that may occur during the school day or at school-sponsored events and functions. These district-wide procedures are designed to enable building administrators to tailor response procedures when creating building-specific crisis management plans.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted permissive language stating that a school board "may adopt the model cardiac emergency response plan provided by" the Commissioner. See Resources below. ~~(as of Nov. 12, 2024, a response plan is not yet available.)~~]

3. School Emergency Response Teams

a. Composition

The building administrator in each school building will select a school emergency response team that will be trained to respond to emergency situations. All school emergency response team members will receive on-going training to carry out the building's crisis management plans and will have knowledge of procedures, evacuation routes, and safe areas. For purposes of student safety and accountability, to the extent possible, school emergency response team members will not have direct responsibility for the supervision of students. Team members must be willing to be actively involved in the resolution of crises and be available to assist in any crisis situation as deemed necessary by the building administrator. Each building will maintain a current list of school emergency response team members which will be updated annually. The building administrator, and alternative designees, will know the location of that list in the event of a school emergency. A copy of the list will be kept on file in the school

district office.

b. Leaders

The building administrator or designee will serve as the leader of the school emergency response team and will be the primary contact for emergency response officials. In the event the primary designee is unavailable, the designee list should include more than one alternative designee and may include members of the emergency response team. When present, emergency response officials may elect to take command and control of the crisis. It is critical in this situation that school officials assume a resource role and be available as necessary to emergency response officials.

III. PREPARATION BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

A. Communication

1. District Employees

Teachers generally have the most direct contact with students on a day-to-day basis. As a result, teachers must be aware of their role in responding to crisis situations. This also applies to non-teaching school personnel who have direct contact with students. All staff shall be aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and their own building's crisis management plan. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan shall include the method and dates of dissemination of the plan to its staff. Employees will receive a copy of the relevant building-specific crisis management plans and shall receive periodic training on plan implementation.

2. Students and Parents

Students and parents shall be made aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and relevant tailored crisis management plans for each school building. Each school district's building-specific crisis management plan shall set forth how students and parents are made aware of the district and school-specific plans. Students shall receive specific instruction on plan implementation and shall participate in a required number of drills and practice sessions throughout the school year.

B. Planning and Preparing for Fire

1. Designate a safe area at least fifty (50) feet away from the building to enable students and staff to evacuate. The safe area should not

interfere with emergency responders or responding vehicles and should not be in an area where evacuated persons are exposed to any products of combustion. (Depending on the wind direction, where the building on fire is located, the direction from which the fire is arriving, and the location of fire equipment, the distance may need to be extended.)

2. Each building's facility diagram and site plan shall be available in appropriate areas of the building and shall identify the most direct evacuation routes to the designated safe areas both inside and outside of the building. The facility diagram and site plan must identify the location of the fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs.

3. Teachers and staff will receive training on the location of the primary emergency evacuation routes and alternate routes from various points in the building. During fire drills, students and staff will practice evacuations using primary evacuation routes and alternate routes.

4. Certain employees, such as those who work in hazardous areas in the building, will receive training on the locations and proper use of fire extinguishers and protective clothing and equipment.

5. Fire drills will be conducted periodically without warning at various times of the day and under different circumstances, e.g., lunchtime, recess, and during assemblies. State law requires a minimum of five fire drills each school year, consistent with Minn. Stat. § 299F.30. See Minn. Stat. § 121A.035.

6. A record of fire drills conducted at the building will be maintained in the building administrator's office.

7. The school district will have prearranged sites for emergency sheltering and transportation as needed.

8. The school district will determine which staff will remain in the building to perform essential functions if safe to do so (e.g., switchboard, building engineer, etc.). The school district also will designate an administrator or his or her designee to meet local fire or law enforcement agents upon their arrival.

C. Facility Diagrams and Site Plans

All school buildings will have a facility diagram and site plan that includes the location of primary and secondary evacuation routes, exits, designated safe areas inside and outside of the building, and the location of fire alarm

control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs. All facility diagrams and site plans will be updated regularly and whenever a major change is made to a building. Facility diagrams and site plans will be maintained by the building administrator and will be easily accessible and on file in the school district office. Facility diagrams and site plans will be provided to first responders, such as fire and law enforcement personnel.

D. Emergency Telephone Numbers

Each building will maintain a current list of emergency telephone numbers and the names and addresses of local, county, and state personnel who may be involved in a crisis situation. The list will include telephone numbers for local police, fire, ambulance, hospital, the Poison Control Center, county and state emergency management agencies, local public works departments, local utility companies, the public health nurse, mental health/suicide hotlines, and the county welfare agency. A copy of this list will be kept on file in the school district office, or at a secondary location for single building school districts, and updated annually.

School district employees will receive training on how to make emergency contacts, including 911 calls, when the school district's main telephone number and location is electronically conveyed to emergency personnel instead of the specific building in need of emergency services.

School district plans will set forth a process to internally communicate an emergency, using telephones in classrooms, intercom systems, or two-way radios, as well as the procedure to enable the staff to rapidly convey emergency information to a building designee. Each plan will identify a primary and secondary method of communication for both internal and secondary use. It is recommended that the plan include several methods of communication because computers, intercoms, telephones, and cell phones may not be operational or may be dangerous to use during an emergency.

E. Warning and Notification Systems

The school district shall maintain a warning system designed to inform students, staff, and visitors of a crisis or emergency. This system shall be maintained on a regular basis under the maintenance plan for all school buildings. The school district should consider an alternate notification system to address the needs of staff and students with special needs, such as vision or hearing.

The building administrator shall be responsible for informing students and employees of the warning system and the means by which the system is used to identify a specific crisis or emergency situation. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan will include the method and

frequency of dissemination of the warning system information to students and employees.

F. Early School Closure Procedures

The superintendent will make decisions about closing school or buildings as early in the day as possible. The early school closure procedures will set forth the criteria for early school closure (e.g., weather-related, utility failure, or a crisis situation), will specify how closure decisions will be communicated to staff, students, families, and the school community (designated broadcast media, local authorities, e-mail, or district or school building web sites), and will discuss the factors to be considered in closing and reopening a school or building.

Early school closure procedures also will include a reminder to parents and guardians to listen to designated local radio and TV stations for school closing announcements, where possible.

G. Media Procedures

The superintendent has the authority and discretion to notify parents or guardians and the school community in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The superintendent will designate a spokesperson who will notify the media in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The spokesperson shall receive training to ensure that the district is in strict compliance with federal and state law relative to the release of private data when conveying information to the media.

H. Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Procedures

Short-term behavioral health crisis intervention procedures will set forth the procedure for initiating behavioral health crisis intervention plans. The procedures will utilize available resources including the school psychologist, counselor, community behavioral health crisis intervention, or others in the community. Counseling procedures will be used whenever the superintendent or the building administrator determines it to be necessary, such as after an assault, a hostage situation, shooting, or suicide. The behavioral health crisis intervention procedures shall include the following steps:

1. Administrator will meet with relevant persons, including school psychologists and counselors, to determine the level of intervention needed for students and staff.

2. Designate specific rooms as private counseling areas.

3. Escort siblings and close friends of any victims as well as others in need of emotional support to the counseling areas.

4. Prohibit media from interviewing or questioning students or staff.

5. Provide follow-up services to students and staff who receive counseling.

6. Resume normal school routines as soon as possible.

I. Long-Term Recovery Intervention Procedures

Long-term recovery intervention procedures may involve both short-term and long-term recovery planning:

Recovery Team

Recovery is an important part of a district emergency plan. Core team members are key administrators, and, depending on the incident, may include all or some of the following: superintendent; communications; human resources; business and finance; buildings and grounds; teaching and learning; student support services.

1. Physical/structural recovery

   Ensuring the safety and usability of a building is the primary goal of physical and structural recovery. Physical damages must be assessed to determine the cost and feasibility of repairing or replacing structures or contents. Building and grounds personnel working with the district business/risk manager and insurance carrier will help to lead this function.

2. Fiscal recovery

   Following a disaster, critical business functions of a school must be restored as soon as possible. Payroll systems, accounting and access to personnel and student data need to be available and operational. Fiscal/business recovery also involves planning for lines of succession for key administrators. Schools must have "continuity of operations plans" to ensure a smooth transition of authority and responsibility should top leadership be unable to function in their role due to a disaster or traumatic incident.

   Fiscal and business recovery planning considerations:
   - Assign responsibilities and determine who is in charge of fiscal services restoration
   - Develop continuity of operations or succession plans
   - Track expenditures and payments for the incident. Track overtime hours, rentals, supplies and equipment.
   - Expedite contracting services needed immediately (clean up, debris removal, utility restoration)
   - Apply for and administer recovery grant programs

- Back up electronic data files. Determine who is responsible, where the files will be stored and how the school's technological functions will be restored

3. Academic recovery

Restoring the structure and routine of learning is the goal of academic recovery. Returning to the normal school day enhances the healing process. While changes in routine may occur due to the disaster or emergency, staff, students, and families working through the event will create a "new normal."

4. Social/emotional recovery

Planning for social/emotional recovery is the responsibility of student support staff (nurses, school social workers, counselors, school psychologists) working with teachers, school administrators, and key community mental health agencies. This planning involves establishing partnerships and developing agreements between the school and community agencies, providing training for staff and recommending policies for school board consideration. Community-based resources need to be identified before an emergency or disaster so they are available for families needing assistance.

5. Recovery communications

There are many school stakeholders -- school board, staff, parents, students, and vendors -- that need information after an emergency response is over. Communication is key to getting timely, accurate information to a wide variety of audiences.

When the school is actively responding to an emergency, the district's public information officer (PIO) works closely with the community's PIO to coordinate statements and press releases with emergency responders.

During recovery, the district PIO works with school administrators and recovery team members to plan for the school's continuing communication with internal and external audiences. Timeliness and accuracy are critical in disseminating recovery messages and controlling rumors.

The district may also designate a phone number for all "recovery" calls and/or provide an email contact on the web site for recovery inquiries. Communications staff monitors trends coming from these inquiries to help identify rumors and possible misinformation so corrective messages can be sent out immediately.

Recovery communication considerations:
• Identify and prioritize stakeholders and their need for information from the district
• Consider internal and external audiences, the kind of information each will need and the form and method of delivery used.
• Coordinate news briefings and parent meetings when necessary
• Determine authorship of communications from school administrators or subject matter experts
• Send frequent updates to key audiences in a timely manner
• Provide resources
• Communications staff controls rumors to the best of their ability by tracking down rumors and misinformation and respond with corrections
• Convey messages of resilience and a return to normalcy
• Keep school board members informed throughout and post incident

IV. ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL

A. Definitions

1. "Active shooter drill" means an emergency preparedness drill designed to teach students, teachers, school personnel, and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school. An active shooter drill is not an active shooter simulation, nor may an active shooter drill include any sensorial components, activities, or elements which mimic a real life shooting.

2. "Active shooter simulation" means an emergency exercise including full-scale or functional exercises, designed to teach adult school personnel and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school which also incorporates sensorial components, activities, or elements mimicking a real life shooting. Activities or elements mimicking a real life shooting include, but are not limited to, simulation of tactical response by law enforcement. An active shooter simulation is not an active shooter drill.

3. "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that demonstrates any of the following:

   a. strong evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented quasi-experimental studies; or

      i. strong evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented experimental studies;

      ii. moderate evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented quasi-experimental studies; or

iii. promising evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented correlational studies with statistical controls for selection bias; or

b. a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluations that the program or practice is likely to improve relevant outcomes, including the ongoing efforts to examine the efforts of the program or practice.

4. "Full-scale exercise" means an operations-based exercise that is typically the most complex and resource-intensive of the exercise types and often involves multiple agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, and real-time movement of resources.

5. "Functional exercises" means an operations-based exercise designed to assess and evaluate capabilities and functions while in a realistic, real-time environment, however, movement of resources is usually simulated.

B. Criteria

An active shooter drill conducted according to Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.037 with students in early childhood through grade 12 must be:

1. accessible;

2. developmentally appropriate and age appropriate, including using appropriate safety language and vocabulary;

3. culturally aware;

4. trauma-informed; and

5. inclusive of accommodations for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

C. Student Mental Health and Wellness

Active shooter drill protocols must include a reasonable amount of time immediately following the drill for teachers to debrief with their students. The opportunity to debrief must be provided to students before regular classroom activity may resume. During the debrief period, students must be allowed to access any mental health services available on campus, including counselors, school psychologists, social workers, or cultural liaisons. An active shooter drill must not be combined or conducted consecutively with any other type of emergency preparedness drill. An active shooter drill must be accompanied by an announcement prior to commencing. The announcement must use concise and age-appropriate language and, at a minimum, inform students there is no immediate

danger to life and safety.

D. Notice

1. The school district must provide notice of a pending active shooter drill to every student's parent or legal guardian before an active shooter drill is conducted. Whenever practicable, notice must be provided at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of a pending active shooter drill and inform the parent or legal guardian of the right to opt their student out of participating.

2. If a student is opted out of participating in an active shooter drill, no negative consequence must impact the student's general school attendance record nor may nonparticipation alone make a student ineligible to participate in or attend school activities.

3. The Commissioner must ensure the availability of alternative safety education for students who are opted out of participating or otherwise exempted from an active shooter drill. Alternative safety education must provide essential safety instruction through less sensorial safety training methods and must be appropriate for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

E. Participation in Active Shooter Drills

Any student in early childhood through grade 12 must not be required to participate in an active shooter drill that does not meet the Criteria set forth above.

F. Active Shooter Simulations

A student must not be required to participate in an active shooter simulation. An active shooter simulation must not take place during regular school hours if a majority of students are present, or expected to be present, at the school. A parent or legal guardian of a student in grades 9 through 12 must have the opportunity to opt their student into participating in an active shooter simulation.

G. Violence Prevention

1. A school district conducting an active shooter drill must provide students in the middle school and high school at least one (1) hour, or one (1) standard class period, of violence prevention training annually.

2. The violence prevention training must be evidence-based and may be delivered in-person, virtually, or digitally. Training must, at a minimum, teach students the following:

a. how to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual

who may be at risk of harming oneself or others;

b. the importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help; and

c. the steps to report dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity, including providing information about the Department of Public Safety's statewide anonymous threat reporting system and any local threat reporting systems.

[NOTE: The Minnesota legislature enacted the addition to 2.c in 2025 (Session Law Chapter 35).]

3. A school district must ensure that students have the opportunity to contribute to their school's safety and violence prevention planning, aligned with the recommendations for multihazard planning for schools, including but not limited to:

a. student opportunities for leadership related to prevention and safety;

b. encouragement and support to students in establishing clubs and programs focused on safety; and

c. providing students with the opportunity to seek help from adults and to learn about prevention connected to topics including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and suicide.

H. Board Meeting

Active shooter drills and active shooter simulations require prior approval from the school board ~~A~~at a regularly scheduled school board meeting.~~,~~

~~a~~ A school board of a district that will conduct an active shooter drill or active shooter simulation must consider the following both before and after the drill or simulation:

1. the effect of active shooter drills on the safety of students and staff; and

2. the effect of active shooter drills on the mental health and wellness of students and staff.

V. SAMPLE PROCEDURES INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY

Sample procedures for the various hazards/emergencies listed below are attached to this Policy for use when articulating specific crisis management plans.

A. Fire and hazardous materials, including biological and chemical threats

B. Natural disasters, including severe weather, shelter in place procedures

C. Bomb threats

D. Utility emergencies

E. Disturbances and medical emergencies

F. Intruders and lock-down procedures

VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES

A. Chemical Accidents

Procedures for reporting chemical accidents shall be posted at key locations such as chemistry labs, art rooms, swimming pool areas, and janitorial closets.

B. Visitors

The school district shall implement procedures mandating visitor sign-in and visitors in school buildings pursuant to the school district's policy. ~~See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites).~~

The school district shall implement procedures to minimize outside entry into school buildings except at designated check-in points and assure that all doors are locked prior to and after regular building hours.

C. Student Victims of Criminal Offenses at or on School Property

The school district shall establish procedures allowing student victims of criminal offenses on school property the opportunity to transfer to another school within the school district.

Legal References:
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12 (Emergency Management)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12A (Natural Disaster; State Assistance)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.038 (Students Safe at School)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 (Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones)
Minn. Stat. § 299F.30 (Fire Drill in School; Doors and Exits)
Minn. Stat. § 326B.02, Subd. 6 (Powers)
Minn. Stat. § 326B.106 (General Powers of Commissioner of Labor and Industry)
Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4 (Trespasses ~~on School Property~~)

Minn. Rules Ch. 7511 (Fire ~~Safety~~ Code)
20 U.S.C. § 1681, *et seq.* (Title IX)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)
20 U.S.C. § 7912 (Unsafe School Choice Option)
42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.* (Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites)
~~https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/documents/2011comprehensiveschoolsafetyguide.pdf~~
~~Minnesota School Safety Center – Resources (mn.gov)~~

Resources:
MDE: Model Cardiac Emergency Response Plan [Rev. 11/25] (accessed 03/10/26)

MN Department of Public Safety: School Safety Resources (accessed 03/10/26)

[NOTE: The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has the following on its website:

Comprehensive school safety guide
The Minnesota Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management offers valuable guidance for school emergency planning. While the MnSSC Comprehensive School Safety Guide is being updated, we encourage you to explore resources from our partners at SchoolSafety.gov. Their Foundation Elements of School Safety can serve as a helpful framework for your planning efforts.]

U.S. Department of Education: Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities [January 2007] (accessed 03/10/26)
I Love U Guys Foundation, Standard Response Protocol (accessed 03/10/26)
Safe and Sound Schools (accessed 03/10/26)

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Reviewed: June 2022

Independent School District #110
Waconia, MN

1.A. 806 Resources

Adopted:_____

Revised:_____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806
Orig. 1999
Rev. 2026

806 CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

[NOTE: The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (Commissioner) is required to maintain and make available to school boards and charter schools a Model Crisis Management Policy. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035. School boards and charter schools must adopt a Crisis Management Policy to address potential crisis situations in their school districts or charter schools. Id. This Model Crisis Management Policy was originally the result of a collaborative effort among the Minnesota Department of Education, Division of Compliance and Assistance; the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and the Minnesota School Boards Association.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Model Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for school district and building administrators, school employees, students, school board members, and community members to address a wide range of potential crisis situations in the school district. The step-by-step procedures suggested by this Policy will provide guidance to each school building in drafting crisis management plans to coordinate protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency or potential crisis situation. Each school district should develop tailored building-specific crisis management plans for each school building in the school district, and sections or procedures may be added or deleted in those crisis management plans based on building needs.

The school district will, to the extent possible, engage in ongoing emergency planning within the school district and with emergency responders and other relevant community organizations. The school district will ensure that relevant emergency responders in the community have access to their building-specific crisis management plans and will provide training to school district staff to enable them to act appropriately in the event of a crisis.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. The Policy and Plans

The school district's Crisis Management Policy has been created in consultation with local community response agencies and other appropriate individuals and groups that would likely be involved in the event of a school emergency. It is designed so that each building administrator can tailor a building-specific crisis management plan to meet that building's specific situation and needs.

The school district's administration and/or the administration of each building shall present tailored building-specific crisis management plans to the school board for review and approval. The building-specific crisis management plans will include general crisis procedures and crisis-specific procedures. Upon approval by the school board, such crisis management plans shall be an addendum to this Crisis Management Policy. This Policy and the plans will be maintained and updated on an annual basis.

B. Elements of the District Crisis Management Policy

1. General Crisis Procedures

The Crisis Management Policy includes general crisis procedures for securing buildings, classroom evacuation, building evacuation, campus evacuation, and sheltering. The Policy designates the individual(s) who will determine when these actions will be taken. These district-wide procedures may be modified by building administrators when creating their building-specific crisis management plans. A communication system will be in place to enable the designated individual to be contacted at all times in the event of a potential crisis, setting forth the method to contact the designated individual, the provision of at least two designees when the contact person is unavailable, and the method to convey contact information to the appropriate staff persons. The alternative designees may include members of the emergency first responder response team. A secondary method of communication should be included in the plan for use when the primary method of communication is inoperable. Each building in the school district will have access to a copy of the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) to assist in the development of building-specific crisis management plans.

All general crisis procedures will address specific procedures for the safe evacuation of children and employees with special needs such as physical, sensory, motor, developmental, and mental health challenges.

[NOTE: More specific information on planning for children with special needs can be found in the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) and United States Department of Education's document entitled, "Practical Information on Crisis Planning, a Guide for Schools and Communities." A website link is provided in the resource section of this Policy.]

a. Lock-Down Procedures

Lock-down procedures will be used in situations where harm may result to persons inside the school building, such as a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespass, disturbance, or when determined to be necessary by the building administrator or his or her designee. The building administrator or designee will announce the lock-down over the public address system or other designated system. Code words will not be used. Provisions for emergency evacuation will be maintained even in the event of a lock-down. Each building administrator will submit lock-down procedures for their building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

[NOTE: Minnesota law requires a minimum of five school lock-down drills each school year. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035.]

b. Evacuation Procedures

Evacuations of classrooms and buildings shall be implemented at the discretion of the building administrator or his or her designee. Each building's crisis management plan will include procedures for transporting students and staff a safe distance from harm to a designated safe area until released by the building administrator or designee. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency situation. The evacuation procedures should include specific procedures

for children with special needs, including children with limited mobility (wheelchairs, braces, crutches, etc.), visual impairments, hearing impairments, and other sensory, developmental, or mental health needs. The evacuation procedures should also address transporting necessary medications for students that take medications during the school day.

[NOTE: Minnesota law requires a minimum of five school fire drills, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 299F.30, and one school tornado drill each school year. See Minnesota Statutes, section121A.035.]

c. Sheltering Procedures

Sheltering provides refuge for students, staff, and visitors within the school building during an emergency. Shelters are safe areas that maximize the safety of inhabitants. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency. The building administrator or his or her designee will announce the need for sheltering over the public address system or other designated system. Each building administrator will submit sheltering procedures for his or her building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) has sample lock-down procedures, evacuation procedures, and sheltering procedures.]

2. Crisis-Specific Procedures

The Crisis Management Policy includes crisis-specific procedures for crisis situations that may occur during the school day or at school-sponsored events and functions. These district-wide procedures are designed to enable building administrators to tailor response procedures when creating building-specific crisis management plans.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) includes crisis-specific procedures.]

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted permissive language stating that a school board "may adopt the model cardiac emergency response plan provided by" the Commissioner. See Resources below. ~~(as of June 4, 2024, a response plan is not yet available.~~]

3. School Emergency Response Teams

a. Composition

The building administrator in each school building will select a school emergency response team that will be trained to respond to emergency situations. All school emergency response team members will receive on-going training to carry out the building's crisis management plans and will have knowledge of procedures, evacuation routes, and safe areas. For purposes of student safety and accountability, to the extent possible, school emergency response team members will not have direct responsibility for the supervision of students. Team members must be

willing to be actively involved in the resolution of crises and be available to assist in any crisis situation as deemed necessary by the building administrator. Each building will maintain a current list of school emergency response team members which will be updated annually. The building administrator, and his or her alternative designees, will know the location of that list in the event of a school emergency. A copy of the list will be kept on file in the school district office, or in a secondary location in single building school districts.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) has a sample School Emergency Response Team list.]

b. Leaders

The building administrator or his or her designee will serve as the leader of the school emergency response team and will be the primary contact for emergency response officials. In the event the primary designee is unavailable, the designee list should include more than one alternative designee and may include members of the emergency response team. When emergency response officials are present, they may elect to take command and control of the crisis. It is critical in this situation that school officials assume a resource role and be available as necessary to emergency response officials.

III. PREPARATION BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

A. Communication

1. District Employees

Teachers generally have the most direct contact with students on a day-to-day basis. As a result, they must be aware of their role in responding to crisis situations. This also applies to non-teaching school personnel who have direct contact with students. All staff shall be aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and their own building's crisis management plan. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan shall include the method and dates of dissemination of the plan to its staff. Employees will receive a copy of the relevant building-specific crisis management plans and shall receive periodic training on plan implementation.

2. Students and Parents

Students and parents shall be made aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and relevant tailored crisis management plans for each school building. Each school district's building-specific crisis management plan shall set forth how students and parents are made aware of the district and school-specific plans. Students shall receive specific instruction on plan implementation and shall participate in a required number of drills and practice sessions throughout the school year.

B. Planning and Preparing for Fire

1. Designate a safe area at least fifty (50) feet away from the building to enable students and staff to evacuate. The safe area should not interfere with emergency responders or responding vehicles and should not be in an area

where evacuated persons are exposed to any products of combustion. (Depending on the wind direction, where the building on fire is located, the direction from which the fire is arriving, and the location of fire equipment, the distance may need to be extended.)

[NOTE: Evacuation areas at least fifty (50) feet from school buildings are recommended but not mandated by statute or rule. Evacuation areas should be selected based on safety and the individual school site's proximity to streets, traffic patterns, and other hazards.]

2. Each building's facility diagram and site plan shall be available in appropriate areas of the building and shall identify the most direct evacuation routes to the designated safe areas both inside and outside of the building. The facility diagram and site plan must identify the location of the fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs.

3. Teachers and staff will receive training on the location of the primary emergency evacuation routes and alternate routes from various points in the building. During fire drills, students and staff will practice evacuations using primary evacuation routes and alternate routes.

4. Certain employees, such as those who work in hazardous areas in the building, will receive training on the locations and proper use of fire extinguishers and protective clothing and equipment.

5. Fire drills will be conducted periodically without warning at various times of the day and under different circumstances, e.g., lunchtime, recess, and during assemblies. State law requires a minimum of five fire drills each school year, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 299F.30. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035.

   [NOTE: The State Fire Marshal advises schools to defer fire drills during the winter months.]

6. A record of fire drills conducted at the building will be maintained in the building administrator's office.

   [NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Preparedness/Planning section, has a sample fire drills schedule and log.]

7. The school district will have prearranged sites for emergency sheltering and transportation as needed.

8. The school district will determine which staff will remain in the building to perform essential functions if safe to do so (e.g., switchboard, building engineer, etc.). The school district also will designate an administrator or his or her designee to meet local fire or law enforcement agents upon their arrival.

   [NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, has a sample fire procedure form, evacuation/relocation and student reunification/release procedures, and planning for student reunification.]

C. Facility Diagrams and Site Plans

All school buildings will have a facility diagram and site plan that includes the location of primary and secondary evacuation routes, exits, designated safe areas inside and outside of the building, and the location of fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs. All facility diagrams and site plans will be updated regularly and whenever a major change is made to a building. Facility diagrams and site plans will be maintained by the building administrator and will be easily accessible and on file in the school district office. Facility diagrams and site plans will be provided to first responders, such as fire and law enforcement personnel.

[NOTE: For single building school districts, such as charter schools, a secondary location for the diagrams and site plans will be included in the district's Crisis Management Policy and may include filing documents with a charter school sponsor, or compiling facility diagrams and site plans and distributing copies to first responders or sharing the documents with first responders during the crisis planning process.]

[NOTE: To the extent data contained in facility diagrams and site plans constitute security information pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13.37, school districts are advised to consult with appropriate officials and/or legal counsel prior to dissemination of the facility diagrams or site plans to anyone other than first responders.]

D. Emergency Telephone Numbers

Each building will maintain a current list of emergency telephone numbers and the names and addresses of local, county, and state personnel who may be involved in a crisis situation. The list will include telephone numbers for local police, fire, ambulance, hospital, the Poison Control Center, county and state emergency management agencies, local public works departments, local utility companies, the public health nurse, mental health/suicide hotlines, and the county welfare agency. A copy of this list will be kept on file in the school district office, or at a secondary location for single building school districts and will be updated annually.

School district employees will receive training on how to make emergency contacts, including 911 calls, when the school district's main telephone number and location is electronically conveyed to emergency personnel instead of the specific building in need of emergency services.

School district plans will set forth a process to internally communicate an emergency, using telephones in classrooms, intercom systems, or two-way radios, as well as the procedure to enable the staff to rapidly convey emergency information to a building designee. Each plan will identify a primary and secondary method of communication for both internal and secondary use. It is recommended that the plan include several methods of communication because computers, intercoms, telephones, and cell phones may not be operational or may be dangerous to use during an emergency.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Preparedness/Planning section, has a sample Emergency Phone Numbers list.]

E. Warning and Notification Systems

The school district shall maintain a warning system designed to inform students, staff, and visitors of a crisis or emergency. This system shall be maintained on a regular basis under the maintenance plan for all school buildings. The school district should consider

an alternate notification system to address the needs of staff and students with special needs, such as vision or hearing.

The building administrator shall be responsible for informing students and employees of the warning system and the means by which the system is used to identify a specific crisis or emergency situation. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan will include the method and frequency of dissemination of the warning system information to students and employees.

F. Early School Closure Procedures

The superintendent will make decisions about closing school or buildings as early in the day as possible. The early school closure procedures will set forth the criteria for early school closure (e.g., weather-related, utility failure, or a crisis situation), will specify how closure decisions will be communicated to staff, students, families, and the school community (designated broadcast media, local authorities, e-mail, or district or school building web sites), and will discuss the factors to be considered in closing and reopening a school or building.

Early school closure procedures also will include a reminder to parents and guardians to listen to designated local radio and TV stations for school closing announcements, where possible.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, provides universal procedures for severe weather shelter.]

G. Media Procedures

The superintendent has the authority and discretion to notify parents or guardians and the school community in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The superintendent will designate a spokesperson who will notify the media in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The spokesperson shall receive training to ensure that the district is in strict compliance with federal and state law relative to the release of private data when conveying information to the media.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, has a sample Media Procedures form.]

H. Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Procedures

Short-term behavioral health crisis intervention procedures will set forth the procedure for initiating behavioral health crisis intervention plans. The procedures will utilize available resources including the school psychologist, counselor, community behavioral health crisis intervention, or others in the community. Counseling procedures will be used whenever the superintendent or the building administrator determines it to be necessary, such as after an assault, a hostage situation, shooting, or suicide. The behavioral health crisis intervention procedures shall include the following steps:

1. Administrator will meet with relevant persons, including school psychologists and counselors, to determine the level of intervention needed for students and staff.

2. Designate specific rooms as private counseling areas.

3. Escort siblings and close friends of any victims as well as others in need of

emotional support to the counseling areas.

4. Prohibit media from interviewing or questioning students or staff.

5. Provide follow-up services to students and staff who receive counseling.

6. Resume normal school routines as soon as possible.

I. Long-Term Recovery Intervention Procedures

Long-term recovery intervention procedures may involve both short-term and long-term recovery planning:

1. Physical/structural recovery.

2. Fiscal recovery.

3. Academic recovery.

4. Social/emotional recovery.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Recovery section, addresses the recovery components in more detail.]

IV. ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL

A. Definitions

1. "Active shooter drill" means an emergency preparedness drill designed to teach students, teachers, school personnel, and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school. An active shooter drill is not an active shooter simulation, nor may an active shooter drill include any sensorial components, activities, or elements which mimic a real life shooting.

2. "Active shooter simulation" means an emergency exercise including full-scale or functional exercises, designed to teach adult school personnel and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school which also incorporates sensorial components, activities, or elements mimicking a real life shooting. Activities or elements mimicking a real life shooting include, but are not limited to, simulation of tactical response by law enforcement. An active shooter simulation is not an active shooter drill.

3. "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that demonstrates any of the following:

a. a statistically significant effect on relevant outcomes based on any of the following:

i. strong evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented experimental studies;

ii. moderate evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented quasi-experimental studies; or

iii. promising evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented correlational studies with statistical controls for selection bias.

b. a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluations that the program or practice is likely to improve relevant outcomes, including the ongoing efforts to examine the effects of the program or practice.

4. "Full-scale exercise" means an operations-based exercise that is typically the most complex and resource-intensive of the exercise types and often involves multiple agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, and real-time movement of resources.

5. "Functional exercises" means an operations-based exercise designed to assess and evaluate capabilities and functions while in a realistic, real-time environment, however, movement of resources is usually simulated.

B. Criteria

An active shooter drill conducted according to Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.037 with students in early childhood through grade 12 must be:

1. accessible;

2 developmentally appropriate and age appropriate, including using appropriate safety language and vocabulary;

3. culturally aware;

4. trauma-informed; and

5. inclusive of accommodations for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

C. Student Mental Health and Wellness

Active shooter drill protocols must include a reasonable amount of time immediately following the drill for teachers to debrief with their students. The opportunity to debrief must be provided to students before regular classroom activity may resume. During the debrief period, students must be allowed to access any mental health services available on campus, including counselors, school psychologists, social workers, or cultural liaisons. An active shooter drill must not be combined or conducted consecutively with any other type of emergency preparedness drill. An active shooter drill must be accompanied by an announcement prior to commencing. The announcement must use concise and age-appropriate language and, at a minimum, inform students there is no immediate danger to life and safety.

D. Notice

1. The school district must provide notice of a pending active shooter drill to every student's parent or legal guardian before an active shooter drill is conducted. Whenever practicable, notice must be provided at least twenty-four (24) hours

in advance of a pending active shooter drill and inform the parent or legal guardian of the right to opt their student out of participating.

2. If a student is opted out of participating in an active shooter drill, no negative consequence must impact the student's general school attendance record nor may nonparticipation alone make a student ineligible to participate in or attend school activities.

3. The Commissioner must ensure the availability of alternative safety education for students who are opted out of participating or otherwise exempted from an active shooter drill. Alternative safety education must provide essential safety instruction through less sensorial safety training methods and must be appropriate for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

E. Participation in Active Shooter Drills

Any student in early childhood through grade 12 must not be required to participate in an active shooter drill that does not meet the Criteria set forth above.

F. Active Shooter Simulations

A student must not be required to participate in an active shooter simulation. An active shooter simulation must not take place during regular school hours if a majority of students are present, or expected to be present, at the school. A parent or legal guardian of a student in grades 9 through 12 must have the opportunity to opt their student into participating in an active shooter simulation.

G. Violence Prevention

1. A school district or charter school conducting an active shooter drill must provide students in middle school and high school at least one (1) hour, or one (1) standard class period, of violence prevention training annually.

2. The violence prevention training must be evidence-based and may be delivered in-person, virtually, or digitally. Training must, at a minimum, teach students the following:

   a. how to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual who may be at risk of harming oneself or others;

   b. the importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help; and

   c. the steps to report dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity, including providing information about the Department of Public Safety's statewide anonymous threat reporting system and any local threat reporting systems.

   [NOTE: The Minnesota legislature enacted the addition to 2.c in 2025 (Session Law Chapter 35).]

3. A school district or charter school must ensure that students have the opportunity to contribute to their school's safety and violence prevention planning, aligned with the recommendations for multihazard planning for

schools, including but not limited to:

a. student opportunities for leadership related to prevention and safety;

b. encouragement and support to students in establishing clubs and programs focused on safety; and

c. providing students with the opportunity to seek help from adults and to learn about prevention connected to topics including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and suicide.

H. Board Meeting

At a regularly scheduled school board meeting, a school board of a district that has conducted an active shooter drill must consider the following:

1. the effect of active shooter drills on the safety of students and staff; and

2. the effect of active shooter drills on the mental health and wellness of students and staff.

V. SAMPLE PROCEDURES INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY

Sample procedures for the various hazards/emergencies listed below are attached to this Policy for use when drafting specific crisis management plans. Additional sample procedures may be found in the Response section of the *Comprehensive School Safety Guide* (2011 Edition). After approval by the school board, an adopted procedure will become an addendum to the Crisis Management Policy.

A. Fire

B. Hazardous Materials

C. Severe Weather: Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm/Flooding

D. Medical Emergency

E. Fight/Disturbance

F. Assault

G. Intruder

H. Weapons

I. Shooting

J. Hostage

K. Bomb Threat

L. Chemical or Biological Threat

M. Checklist for Telephone Threats

N. Demonstration

O. Suicide

P. Lock-down Procedures

Q. Shelter-In-Place Procedures

R. Evacuation/Relocation

S. Media Procedures

T. Post-Crisis Procedures

U. School Emergency Response Team

V. Emergency Phone Numbers

W. Highly Contagious Serious Illness or Pandemic Flu

VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES

A. Chemical Accidents

Procedures for reporting chemical accidents shall be posted at key locations such as chemistry labs, art rooms, swimming pool areas, and janitorial closets.

[NOTE: School buildings must maintain Material Safety Data Sheets (M.S.D.S.) for all chemicals on campus. State law, federal law, and OSHA require that pertinent staff have access to M.S.D.S. in the event of a chemical accident.]

B. Visitors

The school district shall implement procedures mandating visitor sign in and visitors in school buildings pursuant to the school district's~~. See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (~~Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites policy~~)~~.

The school district shall implement procedures to minimize outside entry into school buildings except at designated check-in points and assure that all doors are locked prior to and after regular building hours.

C. Student Victims of Criminal Offenses at or on School Property

The school district shall establish procedures allowing student victims of criminal offenses on school property the opportunity to transfer to another school within the school district.

[NOTE: The Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 United States Code, section 6301, et seq.; Title IX, 20 United States Code, section 1681, et seq.; and the Unsafe School Choice Option, 20 United States Code, section 7912, require school districts to establish such transfer procedures.]

D. Radiological Emergencies at Nuclear Generating Plants [OPTIONAL]

School districts within a 10-mile radius of the Monticello or Prairie Island nuclear power

plants will implement crisis plans in the event of an accident or incident at the power plant.

Questions relative to the creation or implementation of such plans will be directed to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Legal References:
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12 (Emergency Management)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12A (Natural Disaster; State Assistance)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.038 (Students Safe at School)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 (Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones)
Minn. Stat. § 299F.30 (Fire Drill in School; Doors and Exits)
Minn. Stat. § 326B.02, Subd. 6 (Powers)
Minn. Stat. § 326B.106 (General Powers of Commissioner of Labor and Industry)
Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4 (Trespasses)
Minn. Rules Ch. 7511 (Fire Code)
20 U.S.C. § 1681, *et seq.* (Title IX)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)
20 U.S.C. § 7912 (Unsafe School Choice Option)
42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.* (Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance)

Cross References:
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites

Resources: MDE: Model Cardiac Emergency Response Plan [Rev. 11/25] (accessed 03/10/26)
MN Department of Public Safety: School Safety Resources (accessed 03/10/26)

[NOTE: The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has the following on its website:

Comprehensive school safety guide
The Minnesota Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management offers valuable guidance for school emergency planning. While the MnSSC Comprehensive School Safety Guide is being updated, we encourage you to explore resources from our partners at SchoolSafety.gov. Their Foundation Elements of School Safety can serve as a helpful framework for your planning efforts.]

U.S. Department of Education: Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities [January 2007] (accessed 03/10/26)
I Love U Guys Foundation, Standard Response Protocol (accessed 03/10/26)
Safe and Sound Schools (accessed 03/10/26)

1.B. 806 Context and Discussion

2. **625 Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (New)**

625 RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and actionable guidelines for the responsible, ethical, and transparent use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the school district. This policy seeks to support and enhance teaching, learning, and administrative efficiency while upholding academic integrity, protecting privacy, and ensuring equitable access for all students and staff.

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models can assist with various tasks from teaching and learning to writing support to data analysis. School district staff who have access to AI tools should understand underlying behaviors and the potential benefits and limitations associated with use.

The school district recognizes that the use of AI can, when used appropriately, enhance student learning by improving the efficiency of education, providing new and creative ways to support learning, and encourage independent research, curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. The school district also recognizes the limitations and potential for misuse of AI.

The school district authorizes staff members to utilize, and permit students to utilize, ethical and legal use of AI as a supplemental tool to support and expand on classroom instruction, facilitate personalized learning opportunities, and increase educational and learning opportunities, in accordance with the terms of this policy.

The school district authorizes staff to utilize AI as a tool in fulfilling their work responsibilities as consistent with federal and state law and school district policies.

II. GENERAL STATEMENTS OF POLICY

The school district is committed to ensuring that technology serves to improve and enhance the overall learning experience in the classroom. The district adopts the Human-AI-Human (H-AI-H) operating framework. This framework mandates that any administrative or educational workflow utilizing AI must originate from human intent, may leverage AI tools for efficiency or initial support, and must conclude with human oversight, validation, and professional accountability

A. The school district supports AI use as an augmentative tool rather than an autonomous decision-maker. The school district recognizes that human intelligence and the H-AI-H framework should drive the educational process, with AI supporting education and humans remaining accountable for decisions and outcomes.

B. The school district will provide ongoing training and guidance to mitigate the potential for bias and misinformation and will hold students and staff accountable for the consequences of AI use.

C. This policy applies to all AI use by students and staff, regardless of whether the use occurs on school district property, at school district events and activities, or off campus when a nexus to the school district's educational environment exists. Student AI use must be consistent with all other school district policies.

D. Ultimate accountability resides with the individual: all users of AI within the district, including administrators, staff, and students, are completely responsible for their own digital products and outputs.

E. The deployment and utilization of AI tools within the district are anchored by the following four foundational pillars:

1. Truth: Mitigating automated misinformation and verifying the factual accuracy of AI-generated outputs.

2. Data Privacy: Protecting student and staff data by strictly prohibiting the use of personally identifiable information (PII) into public or unapproved AI models.

3. Bias: Continuously evaluating AI tools to minimize algorithmic, cultural, or systemic biases.

4. Academic Integrity: Protecting the "productive struggle" of the learning process to ensure AI supports, rather than replaces, critical thinking.

III. DEFINITIONS

Definitions of key terms—including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Generative Artificial Intelligence, closed and publicly available AI tools, confidential data, personally identifiable information (PII), and school district-approved AI tools—shall be reviewed and updated as needed to ensure alignment with current technology, legal standards, and school district practices. The school district will provide accessible explanations and examples to support understanding among all stakeholders.

Artificial intelligence in a school district is a category of computer-based systems that analyze data and recognize patterns to support teaching, learning, and administrative operations, for the purpose of assisting human decision-making, within educational and legal constraints, and excluding the replacement of professional judgment or human accountability.

A. Agentic AI

Agentic AI involves systems capable of undertaking multistep actions autonomously, such as web browsing, code execution, interaction with other software, and rendering sequential decisions, without human intervention at each step.

B. AI Tool Types

1. Student-Facing AI

Used by or with students for instruction, where student information may be entered.

2. Confidential AI

Used for non-instructional purposes, processing confidential data to generate new content or recommendations.

3. Operational AI

Used for generating content based on non-confidential data.

C. Closed AI Tools

Closed AI tools are private and can be accessed by school district staff only. Sharing data in a Closed AI Tool is more secure than when using a Publicly Available AI Tool, though information leaks may still occur.

D. Confidential Data/Information

Information that the school district is prohibited by law, policy, or contract from disclosing or that the school district may disclose only in limited circumstances. Confidential data includes, but is not limited to, personally identifiable information (PII) about students and employees, student and staff medical information, student

education records, and information about any student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

E. Deep Fake

Any video recording, motion-picture film, sound recording, electronic image, or photograph, or any technological representation of speech or conduct substantially derivative thereof:

1. that is so realistic that a reasonable person would believe it depicts speech or conduct of an individual who did not in fact engage in such speech or conduct; and

2. the production of which was substantially dependent upon technical means, rather than the ability of another individual to physically or verbally impersonate such individual.

F. Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Computer-based systems that generate content—such as text, images, audio, or data analysis—in response to prompts. Generative AI includes large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT, as well as tools that generate audio, images, or video.

G. Generative AI Chatbots

A chatbot with generative AI capabilities that uses large language models (LLMs) and machine learning to simulate natural, human-like conversations and generate content, code, or images in real time. Examples include ChatGPT, Claude, Google Gemini, Meta AI, Microsoft Copilot. It is possible that AI programs, including Generative AI Chatbots, may "hallucinate" (create information that is not true, misleading, or nonsensical).

H. Human-AI-Human Model (H-AI-H)

The H-AI-H model establishes a decision-making framework in K-12 education requiring human judgement at the initiation and human accountability at the conclusion of AI-assisted processes. The model ensures AI serves as an augmentative tool rather than an autonomous decision-maker.

I. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, either directly or indirectly through linkages with other information.

PII includes, but is not limited to:

1. The student's name;

2. The name of the student's parent or other family members;

3. The address of the student or student's family;

4. A personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record;

5. Other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name;

6. Other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or

7. Information requested by a person who the educational agency or institution reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

J. Publicly Available AI Tools

Publicly available AI tools are generally accessible for public use and the public can access the information that the tools provide.

K. School District-Approved AI Tool

Any AI platform or application that has been reviewed and authorized by the school district. A school district teacher or staff member may request that an AI platform or application be reviewed and authorized.

L. Synthetic Media

Digital content in a media format (including text, images, video, and audio) created in part or wholly through use of AI.

M. Voice Cloning

The use of AI to create a digital replica of another person's voice through the use of recorded audio samples.

IV. CURRICULUM INTEGRATION AND AI LITERACY

The district recognizes that preparing students to lead in an AI-informed world requires a proactive commitment to digital and media literacy. Technology and AI integration will actively support academic rigor, while keeping learning student-focused.

A. The district will work to establish instructional protocols and criteria consistent with the H-AI-H framework.

B. Any use of AI in the classroom or on class assignments must align with the teachers' instructions and use expectations. Teachers will provide direction when students are authorized to use AI in an assignment.

C. Teachers will direct student use of AI, ensuring that it aligns with the school district guidelines and policies, and the AI Committee's plans and procedures, including the school district's approved AI tools.

B. Use of AI must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), and other federal and state laws.

V. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) COMMITTEE & AI COORDINATOR

The district shall appoint an AI Committee & Coordinator to guide school district AI objectives. The committee & coordinator will develop, implement, and annually review procedures for AI use, ensuring alignment with school district policies, classroom requirements, and legal standards.

The AI Committee & Coordinator will work to develop and implement districtwide AI procedures and guidelines including:

A. Promoting the H-AI-H framework for consequential actions involving AI use;

B. Promoting AI literacy;

C. Requiring transparency and accountability regarding disclosure of use of AI;

D. Identifying AI approved tools for student and staff use and provide guidelines for seeking approval of new AI.

VI. STUDENT USE GUIDELINES

Students may use school district-approved AI tools for educational purposes only as directed by teachers and in compliance with assignment guidelines. All AI-generated content must be verified and properly cited. Students are prohibited from inputting personal, confidential, or sensitive information into AI tools, whether such information is about themselves or others. The school district will provide training on safe, ethical, and effective AI use, and will review and update guidelines annually. Violations will be addressed according to the Student Discipline Policy, with corrective action and support provided as needed.

A. The school district recognizes that a student's age may be a key consideration in determining appropriate AI use. For this reason, the school district establishes the following guidelines:

1. Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5: only highly restricted, teacher-mediated AI interactions are permitted. The focus is upon conceptual understanding of AI.

2. Grades 6 through 8: structured introduction to AI tools together with appropriate guardrails. Critical thinking about AI outputs and digital citizenship will be addressed.

3. Grades 9 through 12: centers upon broader AI access with accountability expectations; preparation of students for AI-integrated postsecondary and workforce environments; advanced AI literacy, including an understanding of how AI models work.

B. Verification and Academic Integrity

1. When authorized by the teacher, students may use school district-approved AI tools.

2. Students must verify AI-generated information using reliable sources such as textbooks, scientific papers, or reputable educational websites.

3. Any content generated or significantly assisted by AI must be transparent and cited as required by the teacher and the assignment.

4. Submitting AI-generated content or content significantly assisted by AI as original work without attribution is prohibited.

C. Privacy and Data Protection

Students must not upload or input personal, confidential, proprietary, or sensitive information about themselves or others into any AI tool.

VII. STAFF USE GUIDELINES

Staff may use school district-approved AI tools to enhance educational experiences, provided all use complies with applicable laws and school district policies. Staff must not input confidential, proprietary, or sensitive information into public or unapproved AI models. Staff are responsible for guiding and supervising student use, setting clear expectations, and ensuring proper attribution. The school district will provide ongoing training and support and will review staff guidelines regularly. Violations may result in disciplinary action as outlined in

school district policy.

A. Staff Use of AI for Educational Purposes

1. Staff may consult AI for ideas, outlines, and other methods to enhance students' educational experience, such as supplementing lesson plans, providing differentiated or personalized instruction, and aiding in curriculum development.

2. Staff should guide students in AI use, including creation of clear expectations for AI tool use, attribution guidance, fact-checking, and proofreading.

3. Staff should carefully evaluate the appropriateness of AI for educational purposes on a case-by-case basis, considering their appropriateness for each educational context, accuracy, reliability, and alignment with curriculum standards.

4. Staff should implement the H-AI-H framework for AI use involving students;

5. Staff must supervise student use of AI to ensure it is being used appropriately and constructively in the learning process.

6. Staff may use AI for providing feedback on formative assignments and drafts. However, AI shall not be used to assign final or summative grades and feedback to student work. The final grading, definitive evaluation, and qualitative feedback must come entirely from the teacher.

B. Staff Use for Work Responsibilities

1. The school district supports AI use by school staff to assist with work responsibilities, improve efficiency, and support students and their families, staff, and the school district. These uses include, but are not limited to, document assistance, research support, administrative tasks, data analysis, and automation.

2. School district staff use of AI to fulfill work responsibilities must be consistent with this policy and other school district policies, procedures, and rules.

3. School district staff shall implement the H-AI-H framework and maintain human oversight and professional responsibility for all work, including work in which AI tools have been utilized.

VIII. Prohibited Student and Staff Uses of AI

A. Students and Staff may not use AI tools to:

1. Create, access, or display harmful, threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit material;

2. Engage in harassment, discrimination, bullying, or disparagement of others based on race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs;

3. Violate any school district policy, classroom rule, or applicable law; or

4. Utilize AI to create deep fakes, synthetic media, voice cloning, or similar content. Students and staff may not create synthetic images, audio, video, or texts concerning another individual without the individual's explicit and legally

permissible consent.

B. Discipline

Students and staff who violate this policy may be subject to discipline.

IX. DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

All data use involving AI must comply with applicable state and federal laws, school district regulations, and acceptable use policies. The school district will train staff and students on data stewardship, privacy, and legal compliance, and will update procedures as laws and technologies evolve. Data privacy safeguards will be reviewed annually, and any changes to AI products or services will be carefully evaluated for impact on data security.

All data use must comply with all state and federal laws and school district regulations and requirements, including the school district's acceptable use and data policies. All school district users must ensure that all AI interactions comply with state and federal laws, especially regarding student data under FERPA, IDEA, CIPA, and COPPA.

Although AI products may claim to have some privacy safeguards in place, users should assume that all consumer AI products make data publicly available unless otherwise indicated, pursuant to explicit official agreement with the school district.

Legal References:
Minn. Stat. § 13.02 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 13.03 (Access to Government Data)
Minn. Stat. § 13.05 (Duties of Responsible Authority)
Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)
Minn. Stat. § 604.32 (Cause of Action for Nonconsensual Dissemination of a Deep Fake Depicting Intimate Parts or Sexual Acts)
Minn. Stat. § 609.771 (Use of Deep Fake Technology to Influence Election)
Minn. Stat. § 617.262 (Nonconsensual Dissemination of a Deep Fake Depicting Intimate Parts or Sexual Acts)
15 U.S.C. §§ 6501-6506 (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act)
18 U.S.C. §§ 2510-2523 (Electronic Communications Privacy Act)
18 U.S.C. §§ 2701-2713 (Stored Communications Act)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
20 U.S.C. § 1232h (Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment)
20 U.S.C. §§ 1400-1419 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq. (Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq. (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)
42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. (Americans with Disabilities Act)
34 C.F.R. Part 99 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

Cross References:
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406: Public and Private Personnel Data
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 409: Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506: Student Discipline (Forms Attached)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514: Bullying Prohibition Policy
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515: Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records (Form Attached)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524: Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (Form Attached)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524.5: Personal Electronic Communication Devices
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601: School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603: Curriculum Development

Resources:
U.S. Department of Education: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning (accessed 11/03/25)
U.S. Department of Education: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance

Minnesota Department of Education: Artificial Intelligence in Education (accessed 11/03/25)
Minnesota IT Services: Transparent Artificial Intelligence Governance Alliance (accessed 02/24/26)
MNGAIA AI4MN: Centering Relationships, Empowering Learners: AI that Elevates Human Work (accessed 02/16/26)
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN): Artificial Intelligence (accessed 12/12/25)
Digital Promise: Artificial Intelligence in Education (accessed 12/12/25)
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE): Artificial Intelligence in Education (accessed 12/12/25)
National AI Literacy Day: AI Literacy Day Resources (accessed 12/12/25)
National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE): Framework for AI-Powered Learning Environments (accessed 11/03/25)
PIPO-AASA: A District Guide to Data Minimization in the Age of AI (accessed 11/14/25)
Public Interest Privacy Center: From Data Privacy to Discrimination: Examining the Legal Ramifications of AI in Schools (April 2024) (accessed 12/12/25)
TeachAI: AI Guidance for Schools Toolkit (accessed 11/03/25)

Policy 625: Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

Development Process & Stakeholder Engagement

Spring 2026
- MSBA Model policy released
- Attended MSBA webinars on model policy
- Collected work from other districts

Summer 2026
- Attended MNGAIA AI conference (Statewide AI conference)
- Reviewed other district policies (Orono, St. Cloud & Bloomington) and the MSBA Model policy
- Drafted ISD110 policy

Fall 2026
- Gathered constituent feedback
    - Secondary Technology Team (2x)
    - High School Student group
    - District full admin team
    - Teaching and Learning Parent Council
- Main Feedback included
    - Structural Clarity & Terminology: Appreciated plain-language definitions for key technical concepts
    - Human-AI-Human (H-AI-H) Operating Framework: Agreed with the requirement that all AI workflows originate with human intent and conclude with human oversight and accountability was highlighted as a clear, stabilizing anchor throughout the document.
    - Supported distinct guidelines for students and staff.
    - Grade-Level Banding (PreK–12): Strong support was expressed for breaking student guidelines into clear developmental bands
    - Student Voice & Buy-In: High school students appreciated having explicit boundaries regarding when AI use is permitted versus when it violates academic integrity. They emphasized that clear attribution rules protect the value of their own authentic work.
    - Data Privacy & Security Safeguards: Strong consensus supported prohibiting the entry of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or confidential student/staff records into unapproved tools.
    - Sustainable Governance: Stakeholders valued that the policy establishes an ongoing AI Committee & Coordinator

Summary of Key differences from MSBA model policy

Focus Area	MSBA Model Policy 625	Waconia Draft Policy (10/20/2026)
Foundational Pillars	Standard introductory policy statements.	**Establishes Four Pillars (II.E):** Truth, Data Privacy, Algorithmic Bias, and Academic Integrity ("productive struggle").
Prohibited Uses	Duplicated verbatim in Student Use (VII.D) and Staff Use (VIII.D).	**Consolidated Section VIII:** Single universal section covering all student and staff prohibitions.
Summative Evaluation & Grading	Silent on AI limitations regarding student grading.	**Explicit Ban on AI Grading (VII.A.6):** Prohibits AI from assigning final or summative grades/feedback. Evaluation remains 100% human.
Grade-Level Scope	Starts at Kindergarten (K–5).	**Expands to PreK–5 (VI.A.1):** Ensures early childhood education programs are fully governed under teacher-mediated exposure.
Operational & Administrative Rules	Includes 6 standalone articles on vendor contracts, incident plans, retention schedules, etc. (X–XV).	**Shifted to district procedures:** Removed 6 technical articles from the policy that are already included in other district procedures.

Other districts and their AI work

- Data collected from 25 other MN districts
    - 7 of the responding districts have adopted an AI policy
        - 1 have used the MSBA policy as written
        - 6 have used the MSBA policy as its framework but made modifications
    - 5 are in the same place as ISD110. They are working on modifying the MSBA policy to be adopted at some point in the future

3. **MSBA Redlines November 2026**

3.A. 204 Meeting Minutes

204 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

[Note: The provisions of this policy are required by statute.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures relating to the maintenance of records of the school board and the publication of its official proceedings.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school district to maintain its records so that they will be available for inspection by members of the general public and to provide for the publication of its official proceedings in compliance with law.

III. MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND RECORDS

A. The clerk shall keep and maintain permanent records of the school board, including records of the minutes of school board meetings and other required records of the school board. All votes taken at meetings required to be open to the public pursuant to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law must be recorded in a journal or minutes kept for that purpose. Public records maintained by the school district must be available for inspection by members of the public during the regular business hours of the school district. Minutes of meetings shall be available for inspection at the administrative offices of the school district after they have been prepared. Minutes of a school board meeting shall be approved or modified by the school board at a subsequent meeting, which action shall be reflected in the official proceedings of that subsequent meeting.

B. Recordings of Closed Meetings

1. All closed meetings, except those closed as permitted by the attorney-client privilege, must be electronically recorded at the school district's expense. Recordings of closed meetings shall be made separately from the recordings of an open meeting to the extent such meetings are recorded. If a meeting is closed to discuss more than one (1) matter, each matter shall be separately recorded.

2. Recordings of closed meetings shall be preserved by the school district for the following time periods:

   a. Meetings closed to discuss labor negotiations strategy shall be preserved for two (2) years after the contract is signed.

   b. Meetings closed to discuss security matters shall be preserved for at least four (4) years.

   c. Meetings closed to discuss the purchase or sale of property shall be preserved for at least eight (8) years after the date of the meeting.

   d. All other closed meetings shall be preserved by the school district for at least three (3) years after the date of the meeting.

   e. Following the expiration of the above time periods, recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained as set forth in the school district's Records Retention Schedule.

3. Recordings of closed meetings shall be classified by the school district as protected non-public data that is not accessible by the public or any subject of the data, with the following exceptions:

   a. Recordings of labor negotiations strategy meetings shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all labor contracts are signed by the school district for the current budget period.

   b. Recordings of meetings related to the purchase or sale of property shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all real or personal property discussed at the meeting has been purchased or sold or the school district has abandoned the purchase or sale.

   c. Recordings of any other closed meetings shall be classified and/or released as required by court order.

4. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained separately from recordings of open meetings, to the extent recordings of open meetings are maintained by the school district, with the exception of recordings that have been classified as public data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above. Recordings of closed meetings classified as non-public data also shall be maintained in a secure location, separate from recordings classified as public data.

5. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained in a manner to easily identify the data classification of the recording. The recordings shall be identified with at least the following information:

   a. The date of the closed meeting;

   b. The basis upon which the meeting was closed (i.e.: labor negotiations strategy, purchase or sale of real property, educational data, etc.); and

   c. The classification of the data.

6. Recordings of closed meetings related to labor negotiations strategy and the purchase or sale of property shall be maintained and monitored in a manner that reclassifies the recording as public upon the occurrence of an event reclassifying that data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above.

IV. PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

A. The school board shall cause its official proceedings to be published once in the official newspaper of the school district within thirty (30) days of the meeting at which the proceedings occurred; however, if the school board conducts regular meetings not more than once every thirty (30) days, the school board need not publish the minutes until ten (10) days after they have been approved by the school board.

[NOTE: In 2024, the Minnesota legislature enacted two laws regarding publication of school board minutes. Under Chapter 109 (2024), five school districts are authorized to publish their minutes on their websites; this section expires on August 1, 2026.

Under Chapter 115 (2024), the Minnesota legislature enacted the following:
(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, when a qualified newspaper designated by a school district ceases to exist for any reason except consolidation with another newspaper, the school district may publish its proceedings on the school district's website instead of publishing the proceedings in a newspaper. The school district must

~~also request that the same information be posted at each public library located within the school district for the notice's publication period. This section expires August 1, 2026.~~

~~(b) If, before August 1, 2026, there is a newspaper located within a school district's boundaries that is qualified to be designated as the school district's official newspaper pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 331A.04, then the exemption provided in this section shall not apply, provided that the qualified newspaper's legal rate is not more than ten percent above the rate charged by the school district's previous official newspaper and the qualified newspaper provides some coverage of the activities of the school district that is publishing the notice.~~

~~[NOTE: MSBA has not inserted paragraph (a) into this model policy because its application is limited to specific circumstances and for a defined period. School districts that meet the conditions in paragraph (a) may choose to publish on the school district's website.]~~

B. The proceedings to be published shall be sufficiently full to fairly set forth the proceedings. They must include the substance of all official actions taken by the school board at any regular or special meeting, and at minimum must include the subject matter of a motion, the persons making and seconding the motion, a listing of how each member present voted on the motion, the character of resolutions offered including a brief description of their subject matter and whether adopted or defeated. The minutes and permanent records of the school board may include more detail than is required to be published with the official proceedings. If the proceedings have not yet been approved by the school board, the proceedings to be published may reflect that fact.

C. The proceedings to be published may be a summary of the essential elements of the proceedings, and/or of resolutions and other official actions of the school board. Such a summary shall be written in a clear and coherent manner and shall, to the extent possible, avoid the use of technical or legal terms not generally familiar to the public. When a summary is published, the publication shall clearly indicate that the published material is only a summary and that the full text is available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the school district and that a copy of the proceedings, other than attachments to the minutes, is available without cost at the offices of the school district or by means of standard or electronic mail.

D. The school district will request an annual written certification from the publisher of the school district's qualified newspaper that the newspaper satisfies the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 331A.02.

E. If no qualified newspaper is available for publication of official proceedings or a public notice after the discontinuance of a newspaper, the school district must post the information required to be published on the school district's website until another qualified newspaper is identified, which shall then be designated. During the time when no qualified newspaper is available, the school district must also post the public notice on the Minnesota Newspaper Association's statewide public notice website, at no additional cost to the school district.

Legal References:
Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, Subds. 4-6 (Open Meeting Law)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 10 (Boards of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.14, Subd. 7 (Officers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 331A.01 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 331A.02 (Requirements for a Qualified Newspaper)
Minn. Stat. § 331A.05, Subd. 8 (Form of Public Notices)
Minn. Stat. § 331A.08, Subd. 3 (Computation of Time)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.10 (Change of Name or Discontinuance of Newspaper)
Op. Atty. Gen. 161-a-20, December 17, 1970
Ketterer v. Independent School District No. 1, 248 Minn. 212, 79 N.W.2d 428 (1956)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 205 (Open Meetings and Closed Meetings)

Policy Adopted:
Amended April 14, 1997 / November 12, 2001/ April 11, 2005 / April 2009 / October 2022 / January 2025
Policy Reviewed: September 2017
Independent School District No. 110
Waconia, MN

3.B. 213 School Board Committees

213 SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES

[Note: Many school boards utilize either standing or ad hoc committees, or both. On the other hand, some school boards avoid the use of committees for the most part because of the danger of fragmentation of the governance process. The objective of this policy is to provide a framework for those school boards which elect to utilize committees or subcommittees. Further, this policy is designed to apply only to committees or subcommittees made up of elected school board members. Other considerations will apply to committees established by the school board involving members of the public, employees, students, parents, etc.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the structure and the operation of committees or subcommittees of the school board.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. It is the policy of the school board to designate school board committees or subcommittees when it is determined that a committee process facilitates the mission of the school board.

B. The school board has determined that certain permanent standing committees, as described in this policy, do facilitate the operation of the school board and the school district.

C. A school board committee or subcommittee will be formed by school board resolution which shall outline the duties and purpose of the committee or subcommittee.

D. A committee or subcommittee is advisory in nature and has only ~~such~~ the authority ~~as specified~~ expressly granted by the school board.

E. The school board will receive reports or recommendations from a committee or subcommittee for consideration. The school board, however, retains ~~the right and has the duty~~ sole authority to make all final decisions related to such reports or recommendations.

F. The school board ~~also~~ may establish ~~such~~ ad hoc committees by resolution ~~for~~ to address specific projects, issues, or assignments ~~purposes~~ as it deems appropriate.

G. The school board reserves the right to ~~limit, create or abolish~~ create, modify, suspend, or eliminate any standing or ad hoc committee as it deems appropriate.

H. A committee of the school board shall not appoint a subcommittee of that committee without approval of the school board.

III. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

A. The school board hereby appoints the following standing committees:

1. Finance and Facilities

2. Policy and Advocacy

3. Negotiations Committee(s) for various employee groups (as needed).

4. Governance (Chair, Vice-Chair/Clerk, and Treasurer) (as needed)

5. Grievance (as needed)

[Note: Each school district should determine which, if any, standing committees the school board wishes to establish.]

B. The school board will establish, by resolution, for each standing or ad hoc committee, the number of members, the term, and the charge or mission of each such committee. Standing committee members will be assigned in January of each calendar year. Ad-hoc committees will be formed as needed.

C. The school board chair shall appoint the members of each standing or ad hoc committee and designate the chair thereof. While not required, the standard composition of the standing committees is:

1. The Finance and Facilities Committee includes the Board Treasurer and 2 other members.

2. The Policy and Advocacy Committee includes the Vice Chair and 2 other members.

3. The Governance Committee includes the 3 Board officers

4. The Grievance Committee includes the Board Chair and negotiations committee. If the Board chair is also on the negotiations committee, the next two representatives in order would include the vice chair and then the treasurer.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES

A. All meetings of school board committees or subcommittees shall be open to the public in compliance with the Open Meeting Law, and notice shall be given as prescribed by law.

B. A committee or subcommittee shall act only within the guidelines and mission

established for that committee or subcommittee by the school board.

C. Actions of a committee or subcommittee shall be by majority vote and be consistent with the governing rules of the school board.

D. The committee or subcommittee shall designate a secretary who will create a record of each meeting and provide it to the school board as appropriate. ~~record the minutes of actions of the school board committee~~.

E. The power of a committee or subcommittee of the school board is advisory only and is limited to making recommendations to the school board.

F. A committee or subcommittee of the school board shall clarify when communicating with the public, ~~when appropriate, clarify in any dealings with the public~~ that its powers are only advisory to the school board.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13D (Open Meeting Law)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 201 (Legal Status of the School Board)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 203 (Operation of the School Board – Governing Rules)
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 13, School Law Bulletin "C" (Minnesota's Open Meeting Law)

Policy Adopted April 14, 1997 / revised: November 12, 2001/ reviewed: November 2007 revised: May 2016 / revised July 2022 / revised: December 2023 / reviewed April 2026
Independent School District No. 110