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Policy 601

601 SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION GOALS

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Academic standard" means a summary description of student learning in a required content area or elective content area.
- B. "Benchmark" means specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band.
- C. "Curriculum" means district or school adopted programs and written plans for providing students learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge and skills.
- D. "Instruction" means methods of providing learning experiences that enable students to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements.
- E. "Performance measures" are means to determine school district and school site progress in striving to create the world's best workforce and must include at least the following:
 - 1. student performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress where applicable;
 - 2. the size of the academic achievement gap and rigorous course taking, including college-level advanced placement, international baccalaureate,

postsecondary enrollment options including concurrent enrollment, other statutorily recognized courses of study or industry certification courses or programs and enrichment experiences by student subgroup;

3. student performance on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments;
4. high school graduation rates; and
5. career and college readiness under Minnesota Statutes section 120B.30, subdivision 1.

- F. “World’s best workforce” means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; close the academic achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups of students and between students living in poverty and students not living in poverty; have all students attain career and college readiness before graduating from high school; and have all students graduate from high school.
- G. “Experiential learning” means learning for students that includes career exploration through a specific class or course or through work-based experiences such as job shadowing, mentoring, entrepreneurship, service learning, volunteering, internships, other cooperative work experience, youth apprenticeship, or employment.

IV. LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN

- A. As part of the world’s best workforce report, the school board, at a public meeting, shall adopt a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with creating the world’s best workforce and includes the following:
1. clearly defined school district and school site goals and benchmarks for instruction and student achievement for nine student categories identified in state and federal law;
 2. a process for assessing and evaluating each student’s progress toward meeting state and local academic standards and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of instruction in pursuit of student and school success and curriculum affecting students’ progress and growth toward career and college readiness and leading to the world’s best workforce;
 3. a system to periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all instruction and curriculum, taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, and principal evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 123B.147, subdivision 3, and teacher evaluations under Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, subdivision 8, or 122A.41, subdivision 5;

4. strategies for improving instruction, curriculum, and student achievement, including the English and, where practicable, the native language development the academic achievement of English learners;
5. education effectiveness practices that integrate high-quality instruction, rigorous curriculum, technology, and a collaborative professional culture that develops and supports teacher quality, performance, and effectiveness; and
6. an annual budget for continuing to implement the school district plan.

7. [Inclusive Education Plan](#)

B. School district site and school site goals shall include the following:

1. All students will be required to demonstrate essential skills to effectively participate in lifelong learning. These skills include:
 - a. reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing in the English language;
 - b. mathematical and scientific concepts;
 - c. locating, organizing, communicating, and evaluating information and developing methods of inquiry (i.e. problem solving);
 - d. creative and critical thinking, decision making, and study skills;
 - e. work readiness skills;
 - f. global and cultural understanding.
2. Each student will have the opportunity and will be expected to develop and apply essential knowledge that enables that student to:
 - a. live as a responsible, productive citizen and consumer within local, state, national, and global political, social, and economic systems;
 - b. bring many perspectives, including historical, to contemporary issues;
 - c. develop an appreciation and respect for democratic institutions;
 - d. communicate and relate effectively in languages and with cultures other than the student's own;
 - e. practice stewardship of the land, natural resources, and environment;
 - f. use a variety of tools and technology to gather and use information, enhance learning, solve problems, and increase human productivity.
3. Students will have the opportunity to develop creativity and self-expression through visual and verbal images, music, literature, world languages, movement, and the performing arts.
4. School practices and instruction will be directed toward developing within each student a positive self-image and a sense of personal responsibility for:

- a. establishing and achieving personal and career goals, including investigating choices for achieving graduation requirements;
 - b. adapting to change;
 - c. leading a healthy and fulfilling life, both physically and mentally;
 - d. living a life that will contribute to the well-being of society;
 - e. becoming a self-directed learner;
 - f. exercising ethical behavior.
5. Students will be given the opportunity to acquire human relations skills necessary to:
- a. appreciate, understand, and accept human diversity and interdependence;
 - b. address human problems through team effort;
 - c. resolve conflicts with and among others;
 - d. function constructively within a family unit, use District curriculum, assessments and materials to deliver high quality instruction.
 - e. promote a multicultural, gender-fair, disability-sensitive society, emphasize excellence, love of learning, critical thinking, cooperation, exploration, and respect for others.
- C. Every child is reading at or above grade level no later than the end of grade 3, including English learners, and teachers provide comprehensive, scientifically based reading instruction, including a program or collection of instructional practices that is based on valid replicable evidence showing that, when the programs or practices are used, students can be expected to achieve, at a minimum, satisfactory reading progress. The program or collection of practices must include, at a minimum, effective, balanced instruction in all five areas of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension), as well as instructional strategies for continuously assessing, evaluating, and communicating the student's reading progress and needs.
1. The school district must identify, before the end of kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2, all students who are not reading at grade level. Students identified as not reading at grade level by the end of kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia, unless a different reason for the reading difficulty has been identified.
 2. Students in grade 3 or higher who demonstrate a reading difficulty to a classroom teacher must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia, unless a different reason for the reading difficulty has been identified.
 3. Reading assessments in English and in the predominant languages of district students, where practicable, must identify and evaluate students' areas of academic need related to literacy. The school district also must monitor the progress and provide reading instruction appropriate to the specific needs of English learners. The school district must use locally adopted, developmentally

appropriate, and culturally responsive assessment and annually report summary assessment results to the Commissioner of Education by July 1.

4. The school district must annually report to the Commissioner of Education by July 1 a summary of the district's efforts to screen and identify students who demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia using screening tools such as those recommended by the Minnesota Department of Education's dyslexia specialist. With respect to students screened or identified under paragraph (1), the report must include:
 - a. a summary of the district's efforts to screen for dyslexia;
 - b. the number of students screened for that reporting year; and
 - c. the number of students demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia for that year.
5. A student identified as having a reading difficulty must be provided with alternate instruction under [Minnesota Statutes section 125A.56](#), [subdivision 1](#).
6. At least annually, the school district must give the parent of each student who is not reading at or above grade level timely information about:
 - a. the student's reading proficiency as measured by a locally adopted assessment;
 - b. reading-related services currently being provided to the student and the student's progress; and
 - c. strategies for parents to use at home in helping their students succeed in becoming grade-level proficient in reading English and their native languages.

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

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

school day, extended day programs, or programs that strengthen students' cultural connections.

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

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30, Subd. 1 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.35, Subd. 3 (Student Academic Achievement and Growth)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 8 (Employment; Contracts; Termination)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41, Subd. 5 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, Subd. 3 (Principals)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.56, Subd. 1 (Alternate Instruction Required before Assessment Referral)
20 U.S.C. § 5801, *et seq.* (National Education Goals **2000**)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References: Policy 104 (School District Vision Statement)
Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
Policy 615 (Basic Standards Testing, Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP, Section 504 Accommodations and LEP Students)
Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)
Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)

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Policy 602

602 ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHOOL DAY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a timely determination of the school calendar and school day.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school calendar and schedule of the school day are important to parents, students, employees, and the general public for effective planning of the school year.

III. CALENDAR RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The school calendar shall be adopted annually by the school board. It shall meet all provisions of Minnesota statutes pertaining to a minimum number of school days and other provisions of law. The school calendar shall establish student days, workshop days for staff, provide for emergency closings, and other information related to students, staff, and parents.
- B. Except for learning programs during summer and flexible learning year programs, the school district will not commence an elementary or secondary school year before Labor Day, except as provided in Section III.B.1., III.B.2 or III.B.3. Days devoted to teacher's workshops may be held before Labor Day.
 - 1. The school district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day to accommodate a construction or remodeling project of \$400,000 or more affecting a school district school facility.
 - 2. The school district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day if the school district has an agreement under **Minnesota Statutes section** 123A.30, 123A.32, or 123A.35 with a school district that qualifies under Section III.B.1.
 - 3. The school district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day if the school district agrees to the same schedule with a school district in an adjoining state.

IV. SCHOOL DAY RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing a schedule for the student day, subject to review by the school board. All requirements and provisions of Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Department of Education Rules shall be met.
- B. In developing the student day schedule, the superintendent shall consider such factors as school bus schedules, cooperative programs, differences in time requirements at various grade levels, effective utilization of facilities, cost-effectiveness, and other concerns deserving of attention.
- C. Proposed changes in the school day shall be subject to review and approval by the school board.

V. E-LEARNING DAYS

- A. An “e-learning day” is a school day where a school offers full access to online instruction provided by students’ individual teachers due to inclement weather.
- B. A school district may designate up to five e-learning days in one school year.
- C. An e-learning day is counted as a day of instruction and included in the hours of instruction pursuant to Section III.A., above.
- D. The e-learning day plan developed by the school district will include accommodations for students without Internet access at home and for digital device access for families without the technology or with an insufficient amount of technology for the number of children in the household. The plan must also provide accessible options for students with disabilities.
- E. The school district must notify parents and students of its e-learning day plan at the beginning of each school year.
- F. When an e-learning days is declared by the school district, notice must be provided to parents and students at least two hours prior to the normal school start time that students will need to follow the e-learning day plan for that day.
- G. On an e-learning day, each student’s teacher must be accessible both online and by telephone during normal school hours to assist students and parents.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.40 (School Calendar)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.41 (Length of School Year; **Days Hours** of Instruction)

Minn. Stat. § 120A.414 (E-Learning Days)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.415 (Extended School Calendar)
Minn. Stat. § 129A.42 (**Conduct of School on Certain** Holidays)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subs. 7 and 7a (Employment; Contracts;
Termination)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41, Subs. 4 and 4a (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of
the First Class; Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123A.30 (Agreements for Secondary Education)
Minn. Stat. § 123A.32 (Interdistrict Cooperation)
Minn. Stat. § 123A.35 (Cooperation and Combination)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.151 (Voluntary Prekindergarten Program)
Minn. Stat. § 124E.25 (Payment of Aids to Charter Schools)
Minn. Stat. § 127A.41, Subd. 7 (Distribution of School Aids;
Appropriation)

Cross References: Policy 425 (Staff Development)

613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. DEFINITIONS

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

IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

Mark Hughes is the District Assessment Coordinator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the school board annually for approval.

V. GRADUATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

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

required to achieve a specified score or level of proficiency on an assessment to graduate from high school.

- F. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

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

- A. Four credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;
- B. Three credits of mathematics, including an algebra II credit or its equivalent, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
- C. An algebra I credit by the end of 8th grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8th grade standards in mathematics;
- D. Three credits of science, including at least: (a) one credit of biology; (b) one credit of chemistry or physics; and (c) one elective credit of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy (i) all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) all other academic standards in science;
- E. Three and one-half credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;
- F. One credit in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts; and
- G. A minimum of seven elective credits.
- H. Credit equivalencies
 1. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture education or business department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies under Paragraph E., above, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
 2. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state physical science, life science, earth and space science, chemistry, or physics academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the school district. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or

physics required under Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the school district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry or physics academic standards prior to graduation. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under Paragraph D., above.

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

VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

VIII. EARLY GRADUATION

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

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

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.024 (Credits)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)

20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References: Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)

618 ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to institute a process for the establishment and revision of assessments to measure achievement toward meeting the Minnesota Academic Standards, track academic progress over time, and provide Minnesota graduates information related to career and college readiness.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school district has established a procedure by which students shall complete Graduation Requirements. This procedure includes the adoption of performance assessment methods to be used in measuring student performance. The school district strives to continually enhance student achievement of Graduation Requirements.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Above-grade level” test items contain subject area content that is above the grade level of the student taking the assessment and is considered aligned with state academic standards to the extent it is aligned with content represented in state academic standards above the grade level of the student taking the assessment. Notwithstanding the student’s grade level, administering above-grade level test items to a student does not violate the requirement that state assessments must be aligned with state standards.
- B. “Academic standard” means a summary description of student learning in a required content area or elective content area.
- C. “Below-grade level” test items contain subject area content that is below the grade level of the student taking the test and is considered aligned with state academic standards to the extent it is aligned with content represented in state academic standards below the student’s current grade level. Notwithstanding the student’s grade level, administering below-grade level test items to a student does not violate the requirement that state assessments must be aligned with state standards.
- D. “Benchmark” means the specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band.
- E. “Career and college ready,” for purposes of statewide accountability, means a high school graduate has the knowledge, skills, and competencies to successfully pursue

a career pathway, including postsecondary credit leading to a degree, diploma, certificate, or industry-recognized credential and employment. Students who are career and college ready are able to successfully complete credit-bearing coursework at a two- or four-year college or university or other credit-bearing postsecondary program without need for remediation.

- F. “Computer-adaptive assessments” means fully adaptive assessments.
- G. “Cultural competence,” for purposes of statewide accountability, means the ability and will to interact effectively with people of different cultures, native languages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- H. “Elective standards” means a locally adopted expectation for student learning in career and technical education and world languages.
- I. “Experiential learning” means learning for students that includes career exploration through a specific class or course or through work-based experiences such as job shadowing, mentoring, entrepreneurship, service learning, volunteering, internships, or other cooperative work experience, youth apprenticeship, or employment.
- J. “Fully adaptive assessments” include on-grade level test items and items that may be above or below a student’s grade level.
- K. “On-grade level” test items contain subject area content that is aligned to state academic standards for the grade level of the student taking the assessment.
- L. “Required standard” means a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and the arts, or a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health or the arts.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

- A. The superintendent and director of curriculum and instruction shall establish criteria by which student performance of local academic standards and elective standards are to be evaluated and approved. The criteria will be submitted to the school board for approval. Upon approval by the school board, the criteria shall be deemed part of this policy.
- B. The superintendent shall ensure that students and parents or guardians are provided with notice of the process by which academic standards will be assessed.
- C. Staff members will be expected to utilize staff development opportunities to the extent necessary to ensure effective implementation and continued improvement of the implementation of assessments under the Minnesota Academic Standards.

V. STANDARDS FOR MINNESOTA ACADEMIC STANDARDS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

A. Benchmarks

The school district will offer and students must achieve all benchmarks for an academic standard to satisfactorily complete that state standard. These benchmarks will be used by the school district and its staff in developing tests to measure student academic knowledge and skills.

Curriculum and Learning Review Cycle

B. Statewide Academic Standards Testing

1. The school district will utilize statewide assessments developed from and aligned with the state's required academic standards as these tests become available to evaluate student progress toward career and college readiness in the context of the state's academic standards.
2. The school district will administer annually, in accordance with the process determined by the Minnesota Department of Education, the state-constructed tests aligned with state standards to all students in grades 3 through 8 and at the high school level as follows:
 - a. computer-adaptive reading and mathematics assessments in grades 3 through 8;
 - b. high school reading in grade 10, mathematics in grade 11, and a high school writing test, when it becomes available; and
 - c. science assessments in one grade in the grades 3 through 5 span, the grades 6 through 8 span, and a life science assessment in the grades 9 through 12 span (a passing score on high school science assessments is not a condition of receiving a diploma).
3. The school district will develop and administer locally constructed tests in social studies, health and physical education, and the arts to determine if a student has met the required academic standards in these areas.
4. The school district may use a student's performance on a statewide assessment as one of the multiple criteria to determine grade promotion or retention. The school district also may use a high school student's performance on a statewide assessment as a percentage of the student's final grade in a course, or place a student's assessment score on the student's transcript.
5. For students in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, the school district must record on the high school transcript a student's progress toward

career and college readiness. For other students, this record of progress must be made as soon as practicable. In addition, the school district may include a notation of high achievement on the high school diplomas of those graduating seniors who, according to established school board criteria, demonstrate exemplary academic achievement during high school.

6. Students who do not meet or exceed the Minnesota Academic Standards, as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments administered in high school, must be informed that admission to a public school is free and available to any resident under 21 years of age. The school district will determine how this notice is given.

C. Student Participation

1. The Commissioner of Education must create and publish a form for parents and guardians that:
 - a. explains the need for state academic standards;
 - b. identifies the state assessments that are aligned with state standards;
 - c. identifies the consequences, if any, the school or student may face if a student does not participate in state or locally required standardized assessments;
 - d. states that students who receive a college ready benchmark on the high school Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota state college or university in the corresponding subject area;
 - e. summarizes the provisions in Minnesota Statutes section 120B.301(a) and (c); and
 - f. notifies a parent of the right to not have the parent's child participate in the state and locally required assessments and asks a parent that chooses to not have a child participate in the assessments the basis for the decision.
2. The school district must post the form created by the Commissioner on the school district website and include it in the school district's student handbook.

VI. RIGOROUS COURSE OF STUDY WAIVER

- A. Upon receiving a student's application signed by the student's parent or guardian, the school district must declare that a student meets or exceeds a specific academic standard required for graduation if the school board determines that the student:

1. is participating in a course of study, including an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or program; a learning opportunity outside the curriculum of the school district; or an approved preparatory program for employment or post-secondary education that is equally or more rigorous than the corresponding state or local academic standard required by the school district;
 2. would be precluded from participating in the rigorous course of study, learning opportunity, or preparatory employment or post-secondary education program if the student were required to achieve the academic standard to be waived; and
 3. satisfactorily completes the requirements for the rigorous course of study, learning opportunity, or preparatory employment or post-secondary education program.
- B. The school board also may formally determine other circumstances in which to declare that a student meets or exceeds a specific academic standard that the site requires for graduation under this section.
- C. A student who satisfactorily completes a post-secondary enrollment options course or program or an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or program is not required to complete other requirements of the academic standards corresponding to that specific rigorous course of study.

VII. CAREER EXPLORATION ASSESSMENT

- A. Student assessments, in alignment with state academic standards, shall include clearly defined career and college readiness benchmarks and satisfy Minnesota's postsecondary admissions requirements. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing must also be assessed. When administering formative or summative assessments used to measure the academic progress, including the oral academic development, of English learners and inform their instruction, schools must ensure that the assessments are accessible to the students and students have the modifications and supports they need to sufficiently understand the assessments.
- B. On an annual basis, the school district must use the career exploration elements in these assessments, beginning no later than grade 9, to help students and their families explore and plan for postsecondary education or careers based on the students' interests, aptitudes, and aspirations. The school district must use timely regional labor market information and partnerships, among other resources, to help students and their families successfully develop, pursue, review, and revise an individualized plan for postsecondary education or a career. This process must help increase students' engagement in and connection to school, improve students' knowledge and skills, and deepen students' understanding of career pathways as a sequence of academic and career courses that lead to an industry-recognized credential, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree and are available to all

students, whatever their interests and career goals.

- C. All students, except those eligible for alternative assessments, will be encouraged to participate on a nationally normed college entrance exam in grade 11 or 12. A student under this paragraph who demonstrates attainment of required state academic standards on these assessments, which include career and college readiness benchmarks, is academically ready for a career or college and is encouraged to participate in courses awarding college credit to high school students. Such courses and programs may include sequential courses of study within broad career areas and technical skill assessments that extend beyond course grades.

To the extent state funding for college entrance exam fees is available, the school district will pay the cost, one time, for an interested student in grade 11 or 12, who is eligible for a free or reduced-priced meal, to take a nationally recognized college entrance exam before graduating. The school district may require a student who is not eligible for a free or reduced-priced meal to pay the cost of taking a nationally recognized college entrance exam. The school district will waive the cost for a student who is unable to pay.

- D. As appropriate, students through grade 12 must continue to participate in targeted instruction, intervention, or remediation and be encouraged to participate in courses awarding college credit to high school students.
- E. In developing, supporting, and improving students' academic readiness for a career or college, the school district must have a continuum of empirically derived, clearly defined benchmarks focused on students' attainment of knowledge and skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without need for postsecondary remediation.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations **and Graduation Requirements** for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.022 (Elective Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process **for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce**)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.31 (System Accountability and Statistical Adjustments)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.~~082000~~-3501.0815 (Academic Standards for the Arts)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.09~~60~~55 (Academic Standards in Science)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)

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

20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References: Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)

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Policy 619

619 STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR STANDARDS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish opportunities for staff development which advance the staff's ability to work effectively with the Graduation Assessment Requirements and with students as they progress to achievement of those Graduation Assessment Requirements and meet the requirements of federal law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school district is committed to developing staff policies and processes for continuous improvement of curriculum, instruction and assessment to ensure effective implementation of the Graduation Assessment Requirements and federal law at all levels.

III. STANDARDS FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- A. The Curriculum Advisory Committee will collaborate with the Staff Development Committee to address the needs of all staff in prioritizing staff development which will ensure effective implementation of the Graduation Assessment Requirements and federal law at all levels. The Committee will advise the school board on the planning of staff development opportunities.
- B. The school district shall place a high priority on staff development including activities, programs, and other efforts to implement the Graduation Assessment Requirements effectively and to upgrade that implementation continuously.
- C. Staff development plans for the school district shall address identified needs for Graduation Assessment Requirements implementation throughout all levels of the school district programs.
- D. In service, staff meeting, and district and building level staff development plans and programs shall focus on improving implementation of the Graduation Assessment Requirements at all levels for all students, including those with special needs.

IV. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- A. Paraprofessionals. The school district will provide each paraprofessional who assists a licensed teacher in providing student instruction with initial training. Such training will include training in emergency procedures, confidentiality, vulnerability, reporting obligations, discipline, policies, roles and responsibilities, and building orientation. Training will be provided within the first 60 days a paraprofessional begins supervising or working with students.
- B. Teachers/Administrators
1. The school district will provide high-quality and ongoing professional development activities as required by state and federal laws.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota’s Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World’s Best Workforce)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.363 (Credential for Education Paraprofessionals)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.16 (Qualified Teacher Defined)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.60 (Staff Development Program)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0800-3501.082015 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.096055 (Academic Standards in Science)
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma) (repealed Minn. L. 2013. Ch 116. Art. 2 § 22)~~
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References: Policy 104 (School District Vision Statement)
Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)

620 CREDIT FOR LEARNING

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Accredited school” means a school that is accredited by an accrediting agency, recognized according to **Minnesota Statutes section** 123B.445 or recognized by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (**Commissioner MDE**).
- B. “Blended learning” is a form of digital learning that occurs when a student learns part time in a supervised physical setting and part time through digital delivery of instruction, or a student learns in a supervised physical setting where technology is used as a primary method to deliver instruction.
- C. “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of MDE.
- D. “Digital learning” is learning facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of their learning and includes blended and online learning.
- E. “Eligible institution” means a Minnesota public post-secondary institution, a private, nonprofit two-year trade and technical school granting associate degrees,

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

- F. “Nonpublic school” is a private school or home school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with the Minnesota compulsory attendance laws.
- G. “Online learning” is a form of digital learning delivered by an approved online learning provider.
- H. “Online learning provider” is a school district, an intermediate school district, an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that provides online learning to students and is approved by MDE to provide online learning courses.
- I. “Weighted grade” is a letter or numerical grade that is assigned a numerical advantage when calculating the grade point average.

IV. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

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

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

B. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Schools

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

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

V. POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT CREDIT

- A. A student who satisfactorily completes a post-secondary enrollment options course or program under [Minnesota Statutes section 124D.09](#) that has been approved as meeting the necessary requirements is not required to complete other requirements of the Minnesota Academic Standards content standards corresponding to that

specific rigorous course of study.

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

VI. CREDIT FROM ONLINE LEARNING COURSES

- A. Secondary credits granted to a student through an online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement shall be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of a student completing the Minnesota Academic Standards.
- B. Course credit will be considered only upon official documentation from the online learning provider evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded to the student.

- C. When a student provides documentation from an online learning provider, the course credit and course grade shall be recorded and counted toward graduation credit requirements for all courses or programs that meet or exceed the school district's graduation requirements in the same manner as credits are awarded for students transferring from another Minnesota public school as set forth in Section IV.A. above.

VII. ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDIT

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

VIII. WEIGHTED GRADES

- A. The school district does not offer weighted grades.

IX. PROCESS FOR AWARDING CREDIT

- A. The building principal will be responsible for carrying out the process to award credits and grades pursuant to this policy. The building principal will notify students in writing of the decision as to how credits and grades will be awarded.
- B. A student or the student's parent or guardian may seek reconsideration of the decision by the building principal as to credits and/or grades awarded upon request of a student or the student's parent or guardian if the request is made in

writing to the superintendent within five school days of the date of the building principal's decision. The request should set forth the credit and/or grade requested and the reason(s) why credit(s)/grade(s) should be provided as requested. Any pertinent documentation in support of the request should be submitted.

- C. The decision of the superintendent as to the award of credits or grades shall be a final decision by the school district and shall not be appealable by the student or student's parent or guardian except as set forth in Section IX.D. below.
- D. If a student disputes the number of credits granted by the school district for a particular post-secondary enrollment course, online learning course, or advanced academic credit course, the student may appeal the school district's decision to the Commissioner. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
- E. At any time during the process, the building principal or superintendent may ask for course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples from a course where content of the course is in question for purposes of determining alignment with graduation requirements or the number of credits to be granted. Students will not be provided credit until requested documentation is available for review, if requested.

Legal References:

- Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations **and Graduation Requirements** for Minnesota's Students)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process **for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce**)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.14 (Advanced Academic Credit)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 (Nonpublic Education Council)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.03, Subd. 9 (Enrollment Options Program)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.095 (Online Learning Option)
- Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
- Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
- Minn. Rules Parts 3501.08~~2000-3501.0815~~ (Academic Standards for the Arts)
- Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.09~~6055~~ (Academic Standards in Science) ~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma) (repealed Minn. L. 2013, Ch. 116, Art. 2, § 22)~~ Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
- Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
- Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)**

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

624 ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district shall not prohibit an enrolled student from applying to enroll in online learning.
- B. The school district shall grant academic credit for completing the requirements of an online learning course or program.
- C. The school district shall allow an online learning student to have the same access to the computer hardware and education software available in the school district as all other students in the school district. An online learning provider must assist an online learning student whose family qualifies for education tax credit to acquire computer hardware and educational software for online learning purposes.
- D. The school district shall continue to provide non-academic services to online learning students.
- E. Online learning students may participate in the extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis in accordance with MSHL policy, Bylaw 104.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Blended learning” is a form of digital learning that occurs when a student learns part time in a supervised physical setting and part-time through digital delivery of instruction, or a student learns in a supervised physical setting where technology is used as a primary method to deliver instruction.
- B. “Digital learning” is learning facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of their learning and includes blended and online learning.

- C. “Enrolling district” means the school district or charter school in which a student is enrolled under Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22, subdivision 4, for purposes of compulsory education.
- D. “Full-time online learning provider” means an enrolling school authorized by ~~the Minnesota Department of Education~~ (MDE) to deliver comprehensive public education at any or all of the elementary, middle, or high school levels.
- E. “Online learning course syllabus” is a written document that an online learning provider transmits to the enrolling school district using a format prescribed by the Commissioner of MDE (Commissioner) to identify the state academic standards embedded in an online learning course, the course content outline, required course assessments, expectations for actual teacher contact time, and other student-to-teacher communications, and the academic support available to the online learning student.
- F. “Online learning” is a form of digital learning delivered by an approved online learning provider under Paragraph III.H.
- G. “Online learning student” is a student enrolled in an online learning course or program delivered by an authorized online learning provider.
- H. “Online learning provider” is a school district, an intermediate school district, or an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that provides online learning to students and is approved by MDE to provide online learning courses.
- I. “Student” is a Minnesota resident enrolled in a public school, a nonpublic school, church or religious organization, or home school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with Minnesota Statutes sections 120A.22 and 120A.24.
- J. “Supplemental online learning” means an online learning course taken in place of a course period at a local district school.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Dissemination and Receipt of Information
 - 1. The school district shall make available information about online learning to all interested people. The school district may utilize the list of approved online learning providers and online learning courses and programs developed, published, and maintained by MDE.
 - 2. The school district will receive and maintain information provided to it by online learning providers.

3. The online learning provider must report or make available information on an individual student's progress and accumulated credit to the student, the student's parent, and the enrolling district in a manner specified by the Commissioner unless the enrolling district and the online learning provider agree to a different form of notice and notify the Commissioner.
4. The enrolling district must designate a contact person to help facilitate and monitor the student's academic progress and accumulated credits toward graduation.

B. Student Enrollment

1. A student may apply for full-time enrollment in an approved online learning program. The student must have the written consent of a parent or guardian to do so if the student is under eighteen (18) years of age.
2. The student and the student's parents must submit an application to the online learning provider and identify the student's reason for enrolling. An online learning provider that accepts a student under this section must notify the student and the enrolling district in writing within ten days if the enrolling district is not the online learning provider. The student and the student's parent must notify the online learning provider of the student's intent to enroll in online learning within ten days of being accepted, at which time the student and the student's parent must sign a statement indicating that they have reviewed the online course or program and understand the expectations of enrolling in online learning. The online learning provider must use a form provided by MDE to notify the enrolling district of the student's application to enroll in online learning.
3. The supplemental online learning notice to the enrolling district when a student applies to the online learning provider will include the courses or program, credits to be awarded, and the start date of the online learning course or program. An online learning provider must make available the supplemental online learning course syllabus to the enrolling district. Within 15 days after the online learning provider makes information in this paragraph available to the enrolling district, the enrolling district must notify the online learning provider whether the student, the student's parent, and the enrolling district agree or disagree that the course meets the enrolling district's graduation requirements. A student may enroll in a supplemental online learning course up to the midpoint of the school district's term. The school district may waive this requirement for special circumstances with the agreement of the online learning provider.
4. An online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or the grade progression requirement of the enrolling district as described in the provider's online learning course syllabus meets the corresponding graduation requirements applicable to the student in the enrolling district. If the enrolling district does not agree that the course or

program meets its graduation requirements, then the enrolling district must make available an explanation of its decision to the student, the student's parent, and the online learning provider; and the online learning provider may make available a response to the enrolling district, showing how the course or program meets the graduation requirements of the enrolling district.

5. An online learning student may enroll in supplemental online learning courses equal to a maximum of 50 percent of the student's full schedule of courses per term during a single school year, and the student may exceed the supplemental online learning registration limit if the enrolling district permits for supplemental online learning enrollment above the limit or if the enrolling district and the online learning provider agree to the instructional services. To enroll in more than 50 percent of the student's full schedule or courses per term in online learning, the student must qualify to exceed the supplemental online learning registration limit or apply to enroll in an approved full-time online learning program consistent with Paragraph IV.B.2. above. Full-time online learning students may enroll in classes at a local school under a contract for instructional services between the online learning provider and the school district.
6. An online learning student may complete course work at a grade level that is different from the student's current grade level.
7. An online learning student may enroll in additional courses with the online learning provider under a separate agreement that includes terms for paying any tuition or course fees.

C. Classroom Membership and Teacher Contact Time

1. The enrolling district may reduce an online learning student's regular classroom instructional membership in proportion to the student's membership in online learning courses.
2. The school district may reduce the course schedule of an online learning student in proportion to the number of online learning courses the student takes from an online learning provider other than the school district.
3. A teacher with a Minnesota license must assemble and deliver instruction to enrolled students receiving online learning from an enrolling district. The delivery of instruction occurs when the student interacts with the computer or the teacher and receives ongoing assistance and assessment of learning. The instruction may include curriculum developed by persons other than a teacher holding a Minnesota license.
4. The online learning provider, other than a digital learning provider offering digital learning to its enrolled students only under [Minnesota Statutes section 124D.095](#), Subd. 4(d), must give the Commissioner written

assurance that all courses meet state academic standards and the online learning curriculum, instruction, and assessment expectations for actual teacher contact time or other student-teacher communications and academic support meet nationally recognized standards and are described as such in an online learning course syllabus that meets the Commissioner's requirements.

D. Academic Credit; Graduation Standards or Requirements

1. The school district shall apply the same graduation requirements to all students, including online learning students.
2. The school district shall use the same criteria for accepting online learning credits or courses as it does for accepting credits or courses for nonresident transfer students under Minnesota law.
3. The school district may challenge the validity of a course offered by an online learning provider. Such a challenge will be filed with MDE.
4. The school district shall count secondary credits granted to an online learning student toward its graduation and credit requirements.
5. If a student completes an online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or grade progression requirement at the school district, that standard or requirement will be met.
6. Weighted grades will also be applicable if the school district has adopted a policy to offer weighted grades.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42, Subd. 1a (**Textbooks; Individual Instruction or Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests**~~Curriculum;~~
Electronic Components)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.095 (Online Learning Option Act)

Cross References: Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
Policy 608 (Instructional Services-Special Education)
Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)

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02/12/18
03/08/21 *Policy 701*

701 ESTABLISHMENT AND ADOPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish lines of authority and procedures for the establishment of the school district’s revenue and expenditure budgets.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of this school district is to establish its revenue and expenditure budgets in accordance with the applicable provisions of law. Budget planning is an integral part of program planning so that the annual budget will effectively express and implement school board goals and the priorities of the school district.

III. REQUIREMENT

- A. The superintendent or such other school official as designated by the superintendent or the school board shall each year prepare preliminary revenue and expenditure budgets for review by the school board or its designated committee or committees. The preliminary budgets shall be accompanied by such written commentary as may be necessary for them to be clearly understood by the members of the school board and the public. The school board shall review the projected revenues and expenditures for the school district for the next fiscal year and make such adjustments in the expenditure budget as necessary to carry out the education program within the revenues projected.
- B. The school district must maintain separate accounts to identify revenues and expenditures for each building. Expenditures shall be reported in compliance with [Minnesota Statutes section](#) 123B.76.
- C. Prior to July 1 of each year, the school board shall approve and adopt its initial revenue and expenditure budgets for the next school year. The adopted expenditure budget document shall be considered the school board’s expenditure authorization for that school year. No funds may be expended for any purpose in any school year prior to the adoption of the budget document that authorizes that

expenditure for that year, or prior to the adoption of an amendment to that budget document by the school board to authorize that expenditure for that year.

- D. Each year, the school district shall publish its adopted revenue and expenditure budgets for the current year, the actual revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the prior year, and the projected fund balances for the current year in the form prescribed by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education within one week of the acceptance of the final audit by the school board, or November 30, whichever is earlier. A statement shall be included in the publication that the complete budget in detail may be inspected by any resident of the school district upon request to the superintendent. A summary of this information and the address of the school district's official website where the information can be found must be published either in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district or on the school district's official website. If published on the school district's official website, the school district must also publish an announcement in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the school district that includes the Internet address where the information has been posted. At the same time as this publication, the school district shall publish the other information required by Minnesota Statutes section 123B.10.
- E. At the public hearing on the adoption of the school district's proposed property tax levy, the school board shall review its current budget and the proposed property taxes payable in the following calendar year.
- F. The school district must also post the materials specified in Paragraph II.D. above on the school district's official website, including a link to the school district's school report card on the Minnesota Department of Education's website.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. The school board places the responsibility for administering the adopted budget with the superintendent. The superintendent may delegate duties related thereto to other school officials, but the superintendent maintains the ultimate responsibility for this function.
- B. The program-oriented budgeting system will be supported by a program-oriented accounting structure organized and operated on a fund basis as provided for in Minnesota statutes through the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards for Minnesota School Districts (UFARS).
- C. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee is authorized to make payments of claims or salaries authorized by the adopted or amended budget prior to school board approval.

Policy 701

- D. Supplies and capital equipment can be ordered prior to budget adoption only by authority of the school board. If additional personnel are provided in the proposed budget, actual hiring may not occur until the budget is adopted unless otherwise approved by the school board. Other funds to be expended in subsequent school year may not be encumbered prior to budget adoption unless specifically approved by the school board.

- E. The school district shall make such reports to the Minnesota Commissioner of Education as required relating to initial allocations of revenue, reallocations of revenue, and expenditures of funds.

Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 123B.10 (Publication of Financial Information)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.76 (Expenditures; Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 124B.77 (Accounting, Budgeting and Reporting Requirements)

Cross References: ~~MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding~~
Policy 701.1 (Modification of the School District Budget)
Policy 702 (Accounting)

Adopted: 12/09/02 **Revised 10.2022 (Non-substantive Updates)**

ISD 704

Revised: 11/28/16
03/22/21

Policy 701.1

701.1 MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the modification of the school district’s adopted revenue and expenditure budgets.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of this school district is to modify its revenue and expenditure budgets in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

III. REQUIREMENT

- A. The school district’s adopted expenditure budget shall be considered the school board’s expenditure authorization for that school year.
- B. If revisions or modifications in the adopted expenditure budget are determined to be advisable by the administration, the superintendent or director of finance shall recommend the proposed changes to the school board. The proposed changes shall be accompanied by sufficient and appropriate background information on the revenue and policy issues involved to allow the school board to make an informed decision. A school board member may also propose modifications on that board member’s own motion, provided, however, the school board member is encouraged to review the proposed modifications with the superintendent or director of finance prior to their being proposed so that the administration may prepare necessary background materials for the school board prior to its consideration of those proposed modifications.
- C. If sufficient funds are not included in the expenditure budget in a particular fund to allow the proposed expenditure, funds for this purpose may not be expended from that fund prior to the adoption of an expenditure budget amendment by the school board to authorize that expenditure for that school year.
- D. The school district’s revenue budget shall be amended from time to time during a fiscal year to reflect updated or revised revenue estimates. The superintendent shall make recommendations to the school board for appropriate revisions. If necessary, the school board shall also make necessary revisions in the expenditure budget if it appears that expenditures would otherwise exceed revenues and fund balances in a fund.

Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 123B.77 (Accounting, Budgeting, and Reporting Requirements)

Cross References: ~~MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding~~
Policy 701 (Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (Boards of Independent School Districts)~~School Board Powers~~)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.10 (Publication of Financial Information)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.14, Subd. 7 (Officers of Independent Districts)~~Duties of School Board Clerk~~)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.75 (Revenue; Reporting)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.76 (Expenditures; Reporting)

Minn. Stat. § 124B.77 (Accounting, Budgeting and Reporting Requirements)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.78 (Cash Flow; School District Revenues; Borrowing for Current Operating Costs; Capital Expenditures Deficits)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.79 (Permanent Fund Transfers)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.80 (Exceptions for Permanent Fund Transfers)

Cross References:

Policy 703 (Annual Audit)

~~MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding~~