Policy 603 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for continuous review, alignment, and improvement of the Northfield School District curriculum to fulfill the district's strategic plan. Curriculum development supports the district's vision of preparing every student for lifelong success and advances strategic commitments to learner outcomes, equity, and high student achievement.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Curriculum development shall be directed toward the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the education program of the district.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

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

IV. DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. The Board of Education must establish an advisory committee to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.

B. The district advisory committee, to the extent possible, must reflect the diversity of the district and its school sites, include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents, and provide translation to the extent appropriate and practicable. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents must comprise at least two-thirds of advisory committee members.

C. The district advisory committee must pursue community support to accelerate the academic and native literacy and achievement of English learners with varied needs, from young children to adults, consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 124D.59, subdivisions 2 and 2a.

D. The district may establish site teams as subcommittees of the district advisory committee.

E. The district advisory committee must recommend to the board:

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

2. District assessments.

3. Means to improve students' equitable access to effective and more diverse teachers.

4. Strategies to ensure the curriculum is rigorous, accurate, antiracist, culturally sustaining, and reflects the diversity of the student population.

5. Strategies to ensure that curriculum and learning and work environments validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate the cultural and community strengths of all racial and ethnic groups.

6. Program evaluations.

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

V. SCHOOL SITE TEAM

Each school must establish a site team to develop and implement strategies and education effectiveness practices to improve instruction, curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site. The site team must include teachers, administrators, and at least one parent/guardian/caregiver. The site team advises the board and the advisory committee about developing the annual budget and creates an instruction and curriculum improvement plan to align curriculum, assessment of student progress, and growth in meeting state and district academic standards and instruction.

VI. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

A. Within the ongoing process of curriculum development, the following needs shall be addressed:

1. Provide for articulation of courses of study from kindergarten through grade twelve.

2. Identify minimum objectives for each course and at each elementary grade level.

3. Provide for continuing evaluation of programs for the purpose of attaining district objectives.

4. Provide a program for ongoing monitoring of student progress.

5. Provide for specific, particular, and special needs of all members of the student community.

6. Integrate required and elective course standards in the scope and sequence of the district curriculum.

7. Meet all applicable requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education and federal law.

B. Students who do not meet or exceed Minnesota academic standards, as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school, shall be informed that admission to a public school is free and available to any resident under 21 years of age or who meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 120A.20, subdivision 1(c). A student's plan under this section shall continue while the student is enrolled.

C. The superintendent shall be responsible for keeping the board informed of all state-mandated curriculum changes, as well as recommended discretionary changes, and for periodically presenting recommended modifications for board review and approval.

D. The superintendent shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement board policy relating to curriculum development.

Policy 603 Curriculum Development
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Board of Education
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659
Northfield, Minnesota

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.10 (Findings; Improving Instruction and Curriculum)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Read Act Goal and Interventions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125(f) (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.59 (Definitions)
Minn. Rules Part 3500.0550 (Inclusive Educational Program)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0660 (Academic Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)

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

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 619 (Staff Development for Standards)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 623 (Mandatory Summer School Instruction)