Policy 605 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support the district's strategic plan – specifically our commitment to equity, learner outcomes, and ensuring every student has flexible pathways to graduate and achieve lifelong success.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes the importance of alternative educational services for some students. Circumstances may be such that some students are put at risk of being able to continue or to complete their education programs. It is the policy of the school district that options shall be made available for some students to select educational alternatives that will enhance their opportunity to complete their education programs, recognizing that some students may become successful learners if given an opportunity to learn in a different environment and through a different learning style.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

A. Any student who is 17 years old who seeks to withdraw from school, and the student's parent or guardian must attend a meeting with school personnel to discuss the educational opportunities available to the student, including alternative educational opportunities, such as but not limited to, the Northfield Area Learning Center, and/or alternative educational opportunities approved by the district or Minnesota Department of Education, and sign a written election to withdraw from school.

B. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or their designee to identify alternative educational opportunities to be made available to students who may be at risk, to recommend such alternative programs to the school board for approval, and to familiarize students and parents with the availability of such alternative educational services. The superintendent shall, through cooperative efforts with other schools, agencies, and organizations, periodically recommend additional or modified alternative educational services to the school board.

C. The superintendent or their designee shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to alternative programs.

Policy 605 Alternative Educational Services
Adopted: 11.26.2007; Updated: 10.26.2026; Substantive Update: 05.17.2022

Board of Education
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659
Northfield, Minnesota

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 8 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.41, Subd. 11 (Definitions – Alternative Educational Services)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.45, Subd. 1 (Grounds for Dismissal)
Minn. Stat. § 123A.06 (State-Approved Alternative Programs and Services)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.66 (Assurance of Mastery Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.68 (Graduation Incentives Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.74 (American Indian Language and Cultural Educational Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.50 (Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)