

Policy 616 SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to focus public education strategies at Northfield Public Schools on a process that promotes higher academic achievement for all students and ensures broad-based community participation in decisions regarding the implementation of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Implementation of the Minnesota K-12 academic standards and federal law will require a new level of accountability for the district. The district established a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota K-12 academic standards. The district also established a system to review and improve instruction, curriculum, and assessment which will include input by students, parents or guardians, and local community members. The district will be accountable to the public and the state through annual reporting.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “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 district.
- B. “World’s Best Workforce” means striving to meet school readiness goals; 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.
- C. “Advisory committee” is Northfield Forward. Northfield Forward includes a variety of district stakeholders and meets four times every year. Northfield Forward is positioned as the district’s “critical friend” and provides feedback on the strategic plan, World’s Best Workforce report, building goals and results, and Professional Learning Communities’ goals and results.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; EVALUATION AND REPORTING

- A. School District Goals
 - 1. The Board of Education has established school district-wide goals that provide direction for the district. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota K-12 academic standards and federal law. The goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the school board.

2. The Advisory Committee is established by the board to ensure active community participation in planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.
 3. The school district-wide improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the Advisory Committee process. The district's goal setting process will include consideration of individual site goals. District goals may also be developed through an education effectiveness program, an evaluation of student progress committee, or through some other locally determined process.
- B. System for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.
Incorporated in the process will be analysis of the district's progress toward implementation of the Minnesota academic standards. Instruction and curriculum shall be reviewed and evaluated by taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, principal evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 123B.147, and teacher evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40 or 122A.41.
- C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements
The educational assessment system component utilized by the board to measure individual students' educational progress must be based, to the extent annual tests are administered, on indicators of current achievement that show growth relative to an individual student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide or districtwide assessments. The board will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The board must coordinate with MDE in evaluating school sites and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.
- D. Comprehensive Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement
The advisory committee shall ensure active community participation and shall reflect the diversity of the community. To the extent possible, the advisory committee shall reflect the diversity of the district and its school sites and include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents.
- E. Evaluation of Student Progress Committee. A committee of professional staff shall develop a plan for assessment of student progress, the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the Advisory Committee to review instruction and curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site. This plan shall annually be approved by the board.
- F. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.
- G. Reporting
1. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes 120B.36, Subd. 1, the board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in

the district, by mail, or by electronic means on the district website. The board shall hold an annual public meeting to review and revise, where appropriate, student achievement goals, local assessment outcomes, plans, strategies, and practices for improving curriculum and instruction and cultural competency and efforts to equitably distribute diverse, effective, experienced, and in-field teachers, and to review district success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to the world's best workforce. The board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the commissioner in the form and manner the commissioner determines. The district shall periodically survey affected constituencies in their native languages, where appropriate and practicable, about their connection to and level of satisfaction with school. The district shall include the results of this evaluation in its summary report to the commissioner.

2. The school performance report for a school site and a school district must include performance reporting information and calculate proficiency rates as required by the most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
3. The district must annually report the district's class size ratios by each grade to the commissioner of education in the form and manner specified by the commissioner.
4. The district must report whether programs funded with compensatory revenue are consistent with best practices demonstrated to improve student achievement.

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Board of Education

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659

Northfield, Minnesota

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)

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.35 (Student Academic Achievement and Growth)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.36 (School Accountability)

Minn. Stat. § 122A.40 (Employment; Contracts; Termination)

Minn. Stat. § 122A.41 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.04 (Site Decision Making; Individualized Learning Agreement; Other Agreements)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.147 (Principals)

Minn. Stat. § 126C.12 (Learning and Development Revenue Amount and Use)

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 3501.0800-3501.0820 (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: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards)
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)