

Math and Science Academy

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616 SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

[Note: Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 requires school districts to adopt a comprehensive long-term strategic plan that addresses the review of curriculum, instruction, student achievement, and assessment. MSA Policies 601, 603, and 616 address these statutory requirements]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to focus public education strategies on a process which promotes higher academic achievement for all students and ensures broad-based community participation in decisions regarding the implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and ESSA will require a new level of accountability for MSA. MSA also will establish a system to review and improve instruction, curriculum, and assessment which will include input by students, parents or guardians, and local community members. MSA 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 school district.
- B. **"Graduation (Academic) Standards"** means the credit requirements and Minnesota Academic Standards that school districts must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- C. **"World's best workforce" (WBWF)** 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.
- D. **"Cultural competence"** for purposes of statewide accountability, includes, but is not limited to the ability and will to interact effectively with people of different racial,

cultural, and socioeconomic groups; American Indian and Alaskan native students; religion; gender identity, including transgender students; sexual orientation; language diversity; and individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A. MSA Goals

1. The MSA Board of Directors (BOD), through the contract with its authorizer, has established school-wide goals which provide broad direction for MSA. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota Academic Standards and ESSA. The goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the BOD and its authorizer. The BOD shall adopt the goals based on the recommendations of the BOD's Academics Committee.
2. The Academics Committee will be established by the school board to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.
3. The improvement goals should address recommendations identified by MSA's authorizer and the BOD's Academics Committee.

B. System for Reviewing All Instruction and Curriculum.

Incorporated in the process will be analysis of MSA's sustained achievement 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 Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, Subd. 3, and teacher evaluations under Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 8, or 122A.41, Subd. 5.

[Insert Local Instruction and Curriculum Cycle here. See MSA Policy 603 III.A.]

C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. The MSA Director (Director), and the BOD's Academics Committee, shall advise the BOD on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including 6-12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities, and other related issues, as needed. Recommendations shall be published annually to the MSA community. The BOD shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update this policy at least annually.
2. The BOD, through the Academic Committee, shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at MSA meet federal expectations (ex-PSAT/ACT scores). If the BOD determines that student achievement levels at MSA do not meet state school performance expectations, the Director and Academics Committee of the BOD shall work with its authorizer to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels

to meet state expectations. The Director and Academics Committee may seek assistance from the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) (Commissioner) in developing a plan which must include parental involvement components.

3. The educational assessment system component utilized by the BOD to measure individual students' educational progress must be based, to the extent annual tests are administered, on indicators of achievement growth that show an individual student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide or district-wide assessments.

D. Academics Committee's and WBWF's Role in the Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

1. By June 1st of each year, the Academics Committee will meet to advise and assist MSA in the implementation of the school's system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process as represented in the WBWF plan.
2. The Academics Committee, working in cooperation with MSA's authorizer, will provide active community participation in:
 - a. Reviewing MSA's instructional and curriculum plan, including the implementation of the State Standards;
 - b. Identifying annual improvement goals for recommendation to the BOD;
 - c. Making recommendations to the BOD regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure MSA's progress toward its goals;
 - d. Advising the BOD about development of the annual budget.
3. A taskforce of the Academics Committee will develop a professional development plan during June and July based on the recommendations of the WBWF. It will be brought to the August BOD meeting, and implementation will begin at the August Teacher workshop.
4. To the extent possible, the Academics Committee shall reflect the diversity of MSA and include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents. Included in its membership should be: The Academics Committee shall, when possible, be comprised of:
 - a. Director
 - b. All MSA department chairs.
 - c. BOD Member, as chair
 - d. Parents and/or community members
 - e. Academics Guidance Counselor

5. Translation services will be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.
6. Annually, the Academics Committee shall meet and complete the following:
 - a. Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the BOD.
 - b. Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum cycle of the content area.
 - c. Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations.
 - d. Present recommendations to the BOD for its input and approval.

E. The WBWF District Advisory Committee

The committee shall develop a plan for assessment of student progress toward the Academic Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the Academics Committee to review instruction and curriculum, cultural competencies (including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication), and student achievement. This plan shall annually be approved by the BOD.

The Advisory Committee shall, when possible, be comprised of two-thirds parents and community resident representatives and shall reflect the diversity of the MSA community. Included in its membership should be:

- a. Administrator
- b. Teachers
- c. Parents
- d. Support staff
- e. Students
- f. Other community residents

F. Reporting.

Consistent with Minn. Stat. § 120B.36, Subd. 1, the BOD shall publish a report on the MSA website. The BOD 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 to review school success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to the WBWF. The BOD must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. MSA shall periodically survey affected constituencies in their native languages, where appropriate and practicable, about their connection to and level of satisfaction with the school. MSA shall include the results of this evaluation in its published reports and in its summary report to the Commissioner.

G. To meet the Continuous Improvement Goals:

The WBWF will collect and evaluate data from individualized test scores to use in the formation of student improvement and staff professional development goals. The goals will be presented to the Academics Committee by the June meeting (see figure 1).

1. The Academics Committee will receive the WBWF information for review and input and presents to the BOD at its June meeting.
2. During June and July, a professional development task force of the Academics Committee will organize staff training for the August workshops and throughout the school year. The professional development should address the improvement goals.
 - a. Teachers will implement strategies from the Professional Development throughout the school year.
 - b. Students will learn and take tests to provide data on attainment of the improvement goals.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota's Students)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.35 (Student Achievement Levels)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.36 (School Accountability; Appeals Process)

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.04 (Site Decision Making Agreement)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, Subd. 3 (Principals)

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 3501.0800-3501.0815 (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)

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

Minn. Rules Part 8710.0310 (Definitions and General Rules for Teaching Licenses)

Cross References: MSA Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)

MSA Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)

Figure 1 Policy 616 Continuous Improvement Goals

