

MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

Adopted: April 18, 2016

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 404

Orig. 1995

Rev. 2009

404 EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe and healthful environment in the Math and Science Academy (MSA) in order to promote the physical, social, and psychological well-being of its students. To that end, MSA will seek a criminal history background check for applicants who receive an offer of employment with the MSA and on all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to MSA, regardless of whether any compensation is paid, or such other background checks as provided by this policy. MSA will elect to do background checks of other volunteers, independent contractors, and student employees, age 18 years or older in MSA.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. MSA shall require that applicants for school district positions who receive an offer of employment and all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to MSA, regardless of whether any compensation is paid, submit to a criminal history background check. The offer of employment or the opportunity to provide services shall be conditioned upon a determination by MSA that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from employment with, or provision of services to MSA.
- B. MSA specifically reserves any and all rights it may have to conduct background checks regarding current employees, applicants, or service providers without the consent of such individuals.
- C. Adherence to this policy by MSA shall in no way limit MSA's right to require additional information, or to use procedures currently in place or other procedures to gain additional background information concerning employees, applicants, volunteers, service providers, independent contractors, and student employees.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Normally an individual will not commence employment or provide services until MSA receives the results of the criminal history background check. MSA may

conditionally hire an applicant or allow an individual to provide services pending completion of the background check, but shall notify the individual that the individual's employment or opportunity to provide services may be terminated based on the result of the background check. Background checks will be performed by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). The BCA shall conduct the background check by retrieving criminal history data as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.87. MSA reserves the right to also have criminal history background checks conducted by other organizations or agencies.

- B. In order for an individual to be eligible for employment or to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to MSA, except for an enrolled student volunteer, the individual must sign a criminal history consent form, which provides permission for MSA to conduct a criminal history background check, and provide a money order or check payable to either the BCA or to MSA, at the election of MSA, in an amount equal to the actual cost to the BCA and MSA of conducting the criminal history background check. The cost of the criminal history background check is the responsibility of the individual, unless MSA decides to pay the costs for a volunteer, an independent contractor, or a student employee. If the individual fails to provide MSA with a signed Informed Consent Form and fee at the time the individual receives a job offer, or permission to provide services, the individual will be considered to have voluntarily withdrawn the application for employment or request to provide services.

[Note: If the school district elects to receive payment, it may, at its discretion, accept payment in the form of a negotiable instrument other than a money order or check and then pay the superintendent of the BCA directly to conduct the background check.]

- C. MSA, in its discretion, may elect not to request a criminal history background check on an individual who holds an initial entrance license issued by the state board of teaching or the commissioner of education within the 12 months preceding an offer of employment or permission to provide services.
- D. MSA may use the results of a criminal background check conducted at the request of another school hiring authority if:
1. the results of the criminal background check are on file with the other school hiring authority or otherwise accessible;
 2. the other school hiring authority conducted a criminal background check within the previous 12 months;
 3. the individual executes a written consent form giving MSA access to the results of the check; and
 4. there is no reason to believe that the individual has committed an act subsequent to the check that would disqualify the individual for

employment or provision of services.

- E. For all nonstate residents who are offered employment with or the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to MSA, MSA shall request a criminal history background check on such individuals from the superintendent of the BCA and from the government agency performing the same function in the resident state or, if no government entity performs the same function in the resident state, from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The offer of employment or the opportunity to provide services shall be conditioned upon a determination by MSA that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from employment with, or provision of services to, MSA. Such individuals must provide an executed criminal history consent form.
- F. When required, individuals must provide fingerprints to assist in a criminal history background check. If the fingerprints provided by the individual are unusable, the individual will be required to submit another set of prints.
- G. Copies of this policy shall be available in MSA's employment office and will be distributed to applicants for employment and individuals who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services upon request. The need to submit to a criminal history background check may be included with the basic criteria for employment or provision of services in the position posting and position advertisements.
- H. The individual will be informed of the results of the criminal background check(s) to the extent required by law.
- I. If the criminal history background check precludes employment with, or provision of services to, MSA, the individual will be so advised.
- J. MSA will apply these procedures to other volunteers, independent contractors, or student employees age 18 years or older.
- K. At the beginning of each school year or when a student enrolls, MSA will notify parents and guardians about this policy and identify those positions subject to a background check and the extent of MSA's discretion in requiring a background check. MSA may include this notice in its student handbook, a school policy guide, or other similar communication. A form notice for this purpose is included with this policy.

IV. CRIMINAL HISTORY CONSENT FORM

A form to obtain consent for a criminal history background check is included with this policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 4 (Inaccurate or Incomplete Data)

Minn. Stat. § 13.87, Subd. 1 (Criminal History Data)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)
Minn. Stat. §§ 299C.60-299C.64 (Minnesota Child Protection Background
Check Act)
Minn. Stat. § 364.09(b) (Exception for School Districts)

Cross References: