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Policy 601

601 SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION GOALS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish broad curriculum parameters for the school district that encompass the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law and are aligned with creating the world’s best workforce.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is to establish the “world’s best workforce” in which all learning in the school district should be directed and for which all school district learners should be held accountable.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Academic standard” means a summary description of student learning in a required content area or elective content area.
- B. “Antiracist” means actively working to identify and eliminate racism in all forms in order to change policies, behaviors, and beliefs that perpetuate racist ideas and actions.
- C. “Benchmark” means specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band.
- D. “Culturally sustaining” means integrating content and practices that infuse the culture and language of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities who have been and continue to be harmed and erased through the education system.
- E. “Curriculum” means district or school adopted programs and written plans for providing students learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge and skills.
- F. “Ethnic studies” as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.25, has the same meaning for purposes of this section. Ethnic studies curriculum may be integrated

in existing curricular opportunities or provided through additional curricular offerings.

- G. “Experiential learning” means learning for students that includes career exploration through a specific class or course or through work-based experiences such as job shadowing, mentoring, entrepreneurship, service learning, volunteering, internships, other cooperative work experience, youth apprenticeship, or employment.
- H. “Institutional racism” means structures, policies, and practices within and across institutions that produce outcomes that disadvantage those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.
- I. “Instruction” means methods of providing learning experiences that enable students to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements, including applied and experiential learning.
- J. “Performance measures” are measures to determine school district and school site progress in striving to create the world’s best workforce and must include at least the following:
 - 1. student performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress where applicable;
 - 2. the size of the academic achievement gap and rigorous course taking, including college-level advanced placement, international baccalaureate, postsecondary enrollment options including concurrent enrollment, other statutorily recognized courses of study or industry certification courses or programs and enrichment experiences by student subgroup;
 - 3. student performance on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments;
 - 4. high school graduation rates; and
 - 5. career and college readiness under Minnesota Statutes section 120B.30, subdivision 1.
- K. “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.

IV. LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN

- A. As part of the world’s best workforce report, the school board, at a public meeting, must adopt a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with creating the world’s best workforce and includes the following:

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1. clearly defined school district and school site goals and benchmarks for instruction and student achievement for nine student categories identified in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.345, subdivision 3, paragraph (b)(2);
 2. a process for assessing and evaluating each student’s progress toward meeting state and local academic standards and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of instruction in pursuit of student and school success and curriculum affecting students’ progress and growth toward career and college readiness and leading to the world’s best workforce;
 3. a system to periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all instruction and curriculum, taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, and principal evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 123B.147, subdivision 3, and teacher evaluations under Minnesota Statutes, 122A.40, subdivision 8, or 122A.41, subdivision 5;
 4. strategies for improving instruction, curriculum, and student achievement, including the English and, where practicable, the native language development the academic achievement of English learners;
 5. education effectiveness practices that integrate high-quality instruction, rigorous curriculum, technology, and a collaborative professional culture that develops and supports teacher quality, performance, and effectiveness; and
 6. an annual budget for continuing to implement the school district plan; and
 7. [Inclusive Education Plan](#)
- B. The school district is not required to include information regarding literacy in a plan or report required under this section, except with regard to the academic achievement of English learners.
- C. Every child is reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and multilingual learners and students receiving special education services are receiving support in achieving their individualized reading goals pursuant to Policy 621 (Literacy and the READ Act).

[Note: Definitions B, D, F, and H are added to Minnesota Statutes 120B.11—the World’s Best Workforce law effective August 1, 2023. The definitions apply to revisions to the World’s Best Workforce law regarding strategic plans; these revisions are effective “for all strategic plans reviewed and updated after June 30, 2024.

Because school districts may choose to implement the new definitions and the strategic plan revisions before June 30, 2024, MSBA includes the new definitions and revisions in Articles III and IV. A school district could choose to wait to adopt

the new definitions and revisions with the understanding that they will be effective for all strategic plans reviewed and updated after June 30, 2024.]

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota 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.12 (Read Act Goal and Interventions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30, Subd. 1 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.35, Subd. 3 (Student Academic Achievement and Growth)
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.147, Subd. 3 (Principals)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.56, Subd. 1 (Alternate Instruction Required before Assessment Referral)
20 U.S.C. § 5801, *et seq.* (National Education Goals)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* Every Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References: Policy 104 (School District Vision Statement)
Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
Policy 615 (Basic Standards Testing, Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP, Section 504 Accommodations and LEP Students)
Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)
Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)