

616 SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the strategic and operational work of the St. Cloud Area School District promotes higher academic achievement, utilizes data to make programming decisions, and involves stakeholder input.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The School District has established a system to uphold the requirement that students gain proficiency in the Minnesota Academic Standards in order to meet the graduation requirements. The District has also established a system to review and improve instruction, curriculum, and assessment, which includes input from students, parents or guardians, and local community members. The District is 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 Standards” means the credit requirements and locally adopted content standards or 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” means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; 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. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A. School District Goals

- 1. The School Board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of District Administration for comprehensive continuous improvement of student achievement. These annual goals will provide direction for the

District. Incorporated in Academic Standards and federal law. The broad goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the Board.

2. The District's improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council's process. The school district's goal setting process may include consideration of individual site goals. School district goals may be developed through an education effectiveness program review and/or an evaluation of student progress.

B. System for Reviewing All Instruction and Curriculum

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

The District 742 Curriculum Review and Development Process Cycle is an Addendum to this Policy.

C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. Through the Department of Learning and Teaching, the Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council shall advise the School Board on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including preK-12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities and other related issues. Recommendations of this committee shall be published annually to the community. The School Board shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update this policy at least annually.
2. The School Board shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at each school site meet federal expectations. If the School Board determines that student achievement levels at a school site do not meet federal expectations and the site has not made adequate progress, the District shall work with the school site to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels.
3. The educational assessment system component utilized by the school board 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 districtwide assessments. The school board will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student

progress. Multiple forms of assessment will be used when monitoring progress and achievement. The school board must coordinate with MDE in evaluating school sites and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.

D. Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council

1. Each school year the Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council will meet to advise and assist the school district in the implementation of the school district system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process. At minimum, the committee will meet four times each school year.
2. The Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council, working in cooperation with other committees of the school district and the Department of Learning and Teaching will provide active community participation in:
 - a. Reviewing the school district instructional and curriculum plan, with emphasis on implementing the Minnesota Graduation Standards;
 - b. Providing input on annual instruction and curriculum improvement goals for recommendation to the school board through the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
 - c. Making recommendations regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure school district progress toward its goals;
3. The Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council, shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. The Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council, shall ensure active community participation in all planning for instruction and curriculum affecting Graduation Standards.
 - b. The Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council, shall make recommendations to the school board on school district-wide standards, assessments, and program evaluation.
 - c. Building teams may be established as subcommittees to develop and implement an education effectiveness plan and to carry out methods to improve instruction, curriculum, and assessments as well as methods to use technology in meeting the school district improvement plan.

- d. A local plan to evaluate student progress, using a local process, shall be used for developing a plan for assessment of student progress toward the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by The Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council, in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the school board.
4. The Advisory Committee shall, when possible, be comprised of two-thirds community representatives and shall reflect the diversity of the community. Included in its membership should be:
 - a. The Assistant Superintendents
 - b. The Executive Director of Learning and Teaching
 - c. Director of Title Programs
 - d. Building administrative representation from each instructional level
 - e. School Board Member
 - f. Student Representative
 - g. One teacher from each instructional level
 - h. A parent representative from each building or instructional level
 - i. Community representatives
 - j. District Assessment Coordinator
5. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.

E. Evaluation of Student Progress Committee

A committee of professional staff shall develop a plan for assessment of student progress toward Literacy by Grade 3, the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the Learning and Teaching/World's Best Workforce Advisory Council, 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 School Board.

F. Reporting

Consistent with Minn. Stat. § 120B.36, Subd. 1, the school board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in the district, by mail, or by electronic means on the school district website. The school 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 school 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 school board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. The school 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 school district shall include the results of this evaluation in its published reports and in its summary report to the Commissioner.

- 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 for 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:
- Board Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
 - Board Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
 - Board Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
 - Board Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
 - Board Policy 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards)
 - Board Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
 - Board Policy 619 (Staff Development for Standards)
 - Board Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)

BOARD POLICY 616

St. Cloud Area School District 742

St. Cloud, Minnesota

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