

**GOODHUE COUNTY EDUCATION DISTRICT BOARD AGENDA**

**Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

**River Bluff Education Center, Red Wing**

**395 Guernsey Ln**

**Red Wing, MN 55066**

**AGENDA**

- I. **Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda:**
- II. **Consent Agenda:**
  - A. Approval of June 27, 2024 Minutes

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GOODHUE COUNTY EDUCATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM

River Bluff Education Center  
395 Guernsey Lane, Red Wing, MN 55066

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. Roth (Alt); T. Bjornstad, D. Balow, J. Stehr, B. Brintnall, M. Syverson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** J. Lohmann

**OTHERS:** C. Johnson, J. Paradis, C. Luhman, K. Cory

**I. Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda:** J. Stehr called the meeting to order. D. Balow motioned to adopt the agenda. B. Brintnall seconded, motion passed 6-0.

**II. Consent Agenda:** B. Brintnall motioned to approve the consent agenda. M. Syverson seconded, motion passed 6-0.

**A.** Approval of May 23, 2024 Minutes:

**B.** Approval of Claims: D. Balow

**C.** Staff Updates:

1. **Resignations:** *Katherine Gadiant - ECSE Teacher - GDH effective end of 2023-2024 school year.*

2. **New Hire:** *Allegra Smisek, Director of Cradle to Career Initiative/Director of Indian Education, effective 7/1/2024; Madeline Siebenaler - Setting IV Paraprofessional - RBEC effective 2024-2025 School Year.*

3. **Transfers:**

4. **Re-assignment:**

**III. Public Input:** The policy of the education district board is to encourage discussion by persons of subjects related to the management of the district at board meetings. The board shall, as a matter of policy, protect the legal rights to privacy and due process of employees and students. Persons who wish to have a subject discussed at a public board meeting must notify the executive director's office in advance of the board meeting. The person should provide his or her name, address, the name of the group represented (if any), and the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed. The board retains the discretion to limit discussion of any agenda item to a reasonable period of time as determined by the board.

**IV. Reports and Communication:**

**A. Business Manager Report:** J. Paradis shared the Business Manager's report. As of May 31, 2024, we have received \$15,558,478 or 83.11% of the revised budget, compared to 73.99% on May 31, 2023 and 70.38% on May 31, 2022. We have expended \$14,099,954 or 74.99% of the revised expense budget, compared to 72.02% on May 31, 2023 and 71.31% on May 31, 2022. Cash flow has improved and is looking good through the end of the fiscal year. FY25 cash flow has lower spots through the winter right now. We will keep an eye on it as we get closer to November. The May bank reconciliation is included in the board packet for your information.

**B. Instructional Coach Updates:** C. Johnson provided survey results and indicators of the Instructional Coaching model implemented this past school year.

**C. Support for Decision Making - Personnel Qualifications:** C. Johnson reviewed the personnel qualifications that will go into effect for the 2024-25 school year. C. Johnson and K. Cory presented information on 5RO including three year district and statewide trends, preliminary billing and considerations for the future. Board discussion on grade levels sponsored.

**D. Notice of Potential Disclosure of Records:** C. Johnson informed the board about a Notice of Potential Disclosure of Records sent by MDE to Districts. Districts have been asked to send the notice to identified families. C. Johnson mentioned that this notice has been placed in the local papers and on the GCED and member district websites. When possible, letters were sent to families. C. Johnson sent the districts letter and website templates for the notice.

- V. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Pathways 6/7 Location:** T. Bjornstad motioned to continue the Pathways 6/7 at Twin Bluff Middle School for the 2024-25 school year. M. Syverson seconded, motion passed 5-1.
- VI. **New Business:**
  - A. **Acceptance of Donations/Grants Resolution: Carol Anderson for the donation of a tandem recumbent bike.** D. Balow motioned to approve the acceptance of the recumbent bike. M. Syverson seconded, motion passed via roll call vote. D. Balow-yes; M. Syverson-yes; B. Brintnall-yes; J. Roth-yes; T. Bjornstad-yes; J. Stehr-yes.
  - B. **Goodhue County Health and Human Services and Goodhue County Education District Contracts:** J. Stehr motioned to approve the contracts with Goodhue County Health and Human Services for 2024-25. B. Brintnall seconded, motion passed 6-0.
  - C. **JPA between State of MN Corrections and the Goodhue County Education District:** D. Balow motioned to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of MN Corrections and GCED. M. Syverson seconded, motion passed 6-0.
  - D. **2024-2034 Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan:** D. Balow motioned to approve the 2024-2034 Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan. M. Syverson seconded, motion passed via roll call vote. D. Balow-yes; M. Syverson-yes; B. Brintnall-yes; J. Roth-yes; T. Bjornstad-yes; J. Stehr-yes
  - E. **EDIAM:** D. Balow motioned to approve C. Johnson as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for MDE Education Identity and Access Management (EDIAM) Security System. T. Bjornstad seconded, motion passed via roll call vote: D. Balow-yes; M. Syverson-yes; B. Brintnall-yes; J. Roth-yes; T. Bjornstad-yes; J. Stehr-yes.
- VII. **Other:**
- VIII. **Comments: Board/Director**
- IX. **Next Meeting Date: Thursday, July 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the River Bluff Education Center in Red Wing.**
- X. **Adjournment:** D. Balow motioned to adjourn. M. Syverson seconded, motion passed 6-0.



## Goodhue County Ed District Payment Reg by Bank and Check

Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Void	Pay/Void Date	Amount
MERC		39719		Direct Pymt	1	00345	ANGELL, MICHELE		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	74.38
MERC		39720		Direct Pymt	1	02672	METRO SALES, INC.		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	736.84
MERC		39721		Direct Pymt	1	03977	SOUTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	60.00
MERC		39722		Direct Pymt	1	09270	CRISIS PREVENTION INST., INC.	C Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	4,499.00
MERC		39723		Direct Pymt	1	1361	NOBLE, SHARON		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	1,209.98
MERC		39724		Direct Pymt	1	1468	RYAN MECHANICAL	S Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	766.73
MERC		39725		Direct Pymt	1	1483	LAKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	7,243.74
MERC		39726		Direct Pymt	1	1497	BODENHAMER, SUSAN		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	106.80
MERC		39727		Direct Pymt	1	1984	E. B. C., LLC/Flex Contributions		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	614.58
MERC		39728		Direct Pymt	1	2386	HANSEN, CARRIE		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	405.35
MERC		39729		Direct Pymt	1	2440	LIBERTY'S RESTAURANT		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	326.23
MERC		39730		Direct Pymt	1	2476	GNOTKE, NICOLE		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	187.21
MERC		39731		Direct Pymt	1	2528	SUNBELT STAFFING		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	7,372.50
MERC		39732		Direct Pymt	1	2585	TEACHERS ON CALL	C Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	1,499.64
MERC		39733		Direct Pymt	1	2641	PAULSON MOLLY		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	205.25
MERC		39734		Direct Pymt	1	3081	INSTRUCTIONAL EMPOWERMENT, INC	S Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	2,295.00
MERC		39735		Direct Pymt	1	3184	MCLAREN, ARLIE		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	598.31
MERC		39736		Direct Pymt	1	3222	BAUER, SARAH		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	1,569.48
MERC		39737		Direct Pymt	1	3233	O'DONNELL, CASEY		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	619.75
MERC		39738		Direct Pymt	1	3236	WIGGIN, JODI		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	191.78
MERC		39739		Direct Pymt	1	3282	PRESENCE LEARNING, INC	C Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	13,681.70
MERC		39740		Direct Pymt	1	3360	BOLDUAN, NICOLE		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	694.39
MERC		39741		Direct Pymt	1	3414	COULSON, TESS		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	325.62
MERC		39742		Direct Pymt	1	3415	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	672.17
MERC		39743		Direct Pymt	1	3440	KING, BRANDON		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	75.29
MERC		39744		Direct Pymt	1	3545	ROHAN, JILL		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	385.25
MERC		39745		Direct Pymt	1	3618	SOLIANI	C Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	1,848.00
MERC		39746		Direct Pymt	1	3628	AMPION PBC C/O DEPT. 8121	C Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	4,388.74
MERC		39747		Direct Pymt	1	3668	NEW DIRECTION SOLUTIONS, LLC	C Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	720.00
MERC		39748		Direct Pymt	1	3673	AMPION PBC C/O DEPT. 8125	LLC - Partnership	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	84.79
MERC		39749		Direct Pymt	1	3681	QUELLE, REBECCA	C Corporation	Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	229.81
MERC		39750		Wire	1	04060	PERA-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMT		Yes	Yes	No	06/27/2024	7,754.78
MERC		39751		Wire	1	04062	MN TEACHERS RETIREMENT ASSOC		No	Yes	No	06/27/2024	57,583.30
MERC		39752		Wire	1	2216	KWIK TRIP EXTENDED NETWORK		No	Yes	No	06/27/2024	635.68
MERC		39753		Wire	1	2284	E. B. C., LLC /ACS		No	No	No	06/27/2024	32,385.65
MERC		39754		Wire	1	2392	US DEPT. OF TREASURY		No	Yes	No	06/27/2024	96,954.79
MERC		39755		Wire	1	2396	MN Dept of Revenue		No	No	No	06/27/2024	16,846.66
MERC		39756		Wire	1	2501	Merchants Bank		No	Yes	No	06/27/2024	12,190.32
MERC		39757		Wire	1	3232	ENTERPRISE FM TRUST		No	Yes	No	06/27/2024	5,203.72

## Goodhue County Ed District Payment Reg by Bank and Check

Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Void	Pay/Void Date	Amount
MERC		39774		Wire	1	2284	E. B. C., LLC /ACS		No	No	No	07/01/2024	19,693.36
MERC		39775		Wire	1	2392	US DEPT. OF TREASURY		No	No	No	07/01/2024	935.40
MERC		39776		Wire	1	2396	MN Dept of Revenue		No	No	No	07/01/2024	299.52
MERC		39777		Wire	1	03977	SOUTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE		No	No	No	07/11/2024	92,904.12
MERC		39778		Wire	1	1280	DELTA DENTAL PLAN OF MN		No	No	No	07/11/2024	6,619.22
MERC		39779		Wire	1	2216	KWIK TRIP EXTENDED NETWORK		No	No	No	07/11/2024	166.65
MERC		39780		Wire	1	3329	CHASE CARD SERVICES		No	No	No	07/11/2024	6,113.68
MERC		39802		Direct Pymt	1	00360	CARLSON, MELISSA		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	52.53
MERC		39803		Direct Pymt	1	00510	ARNOLD'S SUPPLY & KLEENIT CO		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	34.22
MERC		39804		Direct Pymt	1	02672	METRO SALES, INC.		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	742.00
MERC		39805		Direct Pymt	1	03977	SOUTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	660.00
MERC		39806		Direct Pymt	1	1313	SpEd FORMS, LLC	Ind/Sole Proprietor	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	23,726.96
MERC		39807		Direct Pymt	1	2197	JOHNSON, CHERYL		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	466.99
MERC		39808		Direct Pymt	1	2284	E. B. C., LLC /ACS		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	138.40
MERC		39809		Direct Pymt	1	2719	LUHMAN, CINDY		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	105.86
MERC		39810		Direct Pymt	1	2761	DALSIN ALISHA		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	765.50
MERC		39811		Direct Pymt	1	2865	INTELLICENTS		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	1,250.00
MERC		39812		Direct Pymt	1	3002	MOLDE-BOEDING, JAYNE		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	361.13
MERC		39813		Direct Pymt	1	3010	BALOW, DAWN		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	120.60
MERC		39814		Direct Pymt	1	3072	FRONTLINE TECHNOLOGIES GROUP, I LLC - Partnership		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	17,845.30
MERC		39815		Direct Pymt	1	3163	ILLUMINATE EDUCATION, INC	C Corporation	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	4,139.75
MERC		39816		Direct Pymt	1	3184	MCLAREN, ARLIE		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	287.43
MERC		39817		Direct Pymt	1	3222	BAUER, SARAH		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	640.52
MERC		39818		Direct Pymt	1	3302	LOCHNER, KATIE		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	36.18
MERC		39819		Direct Pymt	1	3415	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	53.18
MERC		39820		Direct Pymt	1	3480	UMB BANK, N.A.		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	146,508.75
MERC		39821		Direct Pymt	1	3616	PRICE, MORGAN		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	238.52
MERC		39822		Direct Pymt	1	3628	AMPION PBC C/O DEPT. 8121	C Corporation	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	5,573.44
MERC		39823		Direct Pymt	1	3643	AWOLOPE, KAYLA		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	1,054.25
MERC		39824		Direct Pymt	1	3646	LOHMANN, JASON		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	229.14
MERC		39825		Direct Pymt	1	3648	SYVERSON, MARILYN		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	221.10
MERC		39826		Direct Pymt	1	3673	AMPION PBC C/O DEPT. 8125	C Corporation	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	105.65
MERC		39827		Direct Pymt	1	1984	E. B. C., LLC/Flex Contributions		Yes	No	No	07/15/2024	614.58
MERC		39829		Wire	1	04060	PERA-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMT		No	No	No	07/15/2024	6,452.78
MERC		39830		Wire	1	04062	MN TEACHERS RETIREMENT ASSOC		No	No	No	07/15/2024	62,725.32
MERC		39831		Wire	1	2284	E. B. C., LLC /ACS		No	No	No	07/15/2024	18,955.11
MERC		39832		Wire	1	2392	US DEPT. OF TREASURY		No	No	No	07/15/2024	102,111.28
MERC		39833		Wire	1	2396	MN Dept of Revenue		No	No	No	07/15/2024	18,050.80
MERC		39834		Wire	1	2501	Merchants Bank		No	No	No	07/15/2024	3,208.72

## Goodhue County Ed District Payment Reg by Bank and Check

Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Void	Pay/Void Date	Amount
MERC		39765	21440	Check	1	2495	CALEDONIA AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	6,685.42
MERC		39769	21441	Check	1	3193	CITY OF RED WING - POLICE DEPT.		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	71,419.37
MERC		39759	21442	Check	1	09118	EDUCATION MN - GCED		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	3,130.82
MERC		39768	21443	Check	1	3126	FERNBROOK FAMILY CENTER	S Corporation	Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	20,025.19
MERC		39766	21444	Check	1	2521	FUN AND FUNCTION		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	89.26
MERC		39763	21445	Check	1	2358	HASSEMER, KELLY		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	106.91
MERC		39760	21446	Check	1	09162	HILLYARD FLOOR CARE SUPPLY		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	1,339.60
MERC		39764	21447	Check	1	2377	HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	8,496.23
MERC		39773	21448	Check	1	3722	MARSHALL MEMO LLC	Ind/Sole Proprietor	Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	50.00
MERC		39770	21449	Check	1	3296	MUTUAL OF OMAHA		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	3,138.11
MERC		39771	21450	Check	1	3517	Q MEDIA GROUP LLC	LLC - Partnership	Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	500.00
MERC		39758	21451	Check	1	00670	RATWIK ROSZAK & MALONEY PA		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	424.00
MERC		39772	21452	Check	1	3661	RMT TECH LLC	LLC - Partnership	Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	3,785.00
MERC		39761	21453	Check	1	1401	SYLVANDER HEATING, INC.		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	586.50
MERC		39767	21454	Check	1	3011	U.S. BANK EQUIPMENT FINANCE		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	290.00
MERC		39762	21455	Check	1	2303	WABASHA-KELLOGG PUBLIC SCHOOL		Yes	No	No	06/27/2024	194.25
MERC		39798	21456	Check	1	3505	CAPITAL ONE		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	755.47
MERC		39781	21457	Check	1	00433	CITY OF RED WING		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	2,184.05
MERC		39794	21458	Check	1	3117	EDMENTUM		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	725.00
MERC		39800	21459	Check	1	3641	EMPLOYERS PREFERRED INS. CO		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	4,968.40
MERC		39790	21460	Check	1	2879	INFINITE CAMPUS INC	S Corporation	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	15,450.00
MERC		39791	21461	Check	1	2960	LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES	C Corporation	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	46.40
MERC		39786	21462	Check	1	06646	MASA		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	209.00
MERC		39785	21463	Check	1	05403	MASE		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	3,624.00
MERC		39796	21464	Check	1	3467	MASSP		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	640.00
MERC		39784	21465	Check	1	02620	MSBA		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	5,000.00
MERC		39797	21466	Check	1	3495	O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	48.00
MERC		39799	21467	Check	1	3517	Q MEDIA GROUP LLC	LLC - Partnership	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	500.00
MERC		39782	21468	Check	1	00443	RED WING ACE HARDWARE		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	59.46
MERC		39788	21469	Check	1	2081	RENAISSANCE LEARNING, INC.		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	35,707.97
MERC		39783	21470	Check	1	01024	ROTH, JEAN		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	26.80
MERC		39795	21471	Check	1	3207	SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	485.18
MERC		39793	21472	Check	1	3078	SHRED-N-GO-446138	S Corporation	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	81.93
MERC		39789	21473	Check	1	2234	SOUTHWEST/WST CENTRL SERV.COC		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	47,120.23
MERC		39792	21474	Check	1	3011	U.S. BANK EQUIPMENT FINANCE		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	400.00
MERC		39787	21475	Check	1	1789	UPS		Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	51.54
MERC		39801	21476	Check	1	3723	VITAMINK12, LLC	LLC - S Corp	Yes	No	No	07/11/2024	1,200.00

### Goodhue County Ed District Payment Reg by Bank and Check

Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Void	Date	Pay/Void	Amount
MERC		39828	21477		Check	1 09118		EDUCATION MN - GCED		Yes	No	No	07/15/2024		3,130.82
Bank Total: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$1,070,126.06</span>															
Report Total: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$1,070,126.06</span>															



C. Staff Updates:

1. **Resignations:** *Stephanie Wunderlich, ECSE Teacher - KW Schools effective 7/1/24; Michele Kremer, ASL Interpreter - Districtwide effective immediately.*
2. **New Hire:** *Allison Anderson, Pathways 6/7 Teacher - TBMS effective 2024-25 School Year; Kayla Berentsen, Pathways 6/7 Paraprofessional - TBMS effective 2024-25 School Year.*
3. **Reassignment:** *Dan Nelson from 6/7 Pathways Teacher -TBMS to Industrial Tech Teacher - RBEC effective 2024-25 School Year.*
4. **Leave of Absence:** Andrea King, Social Worker - RBEC 0.2

III. **Public Input:** The policy of the education district board is to encourage discussion by persons of subjects related to the management of the district at board meetings. The board shall, as a matter of policy, protect the legal rights to privacy and due process of employees and students. Persons who wish to have a subject discussed at a public board meeting must notify the executive director's office in advance of the board meeting. The person should provide his or her name, address, the name of group represented (if any), and the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed. The board retains the discretion to limit discussion of any agenda item to a reasonable period of time as determined by the board.

IV. **Reports and Communication:**

A. Business Manager Report

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**Goodhue County Ed District  
Reconciliation Worksheet Report  
06/30/2024**

Audit No	Statement Date	Co	Bank Code	Bank Name/Description
1539	06/30/2024	6051	MERC	MERCHANTS BANK GENERAL

**Statement Amount**                    1,348,277.45

**Deposits in Transit**                    0.00

**Outstanding Payments**

**Checks**                                    126,825.48

**Wires**                                    49,232.31

**SHR - Payments**                    0.00

**SHR - Third Party**                    0.00

**Cash**                                    0.00

**ACH**                                    0.00

**Adjustment Amount**                    23,854.09

**Amount Per Bank**                    1,196,073.75

**GL Account Balance**                    1,196,073.75

<b>Co</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Fd</b>	<b>Org</b>	<b>Pro</b>	<b>Crs</b>	<b>Fin</b>	<b>O/S</b>	<b>Ty</b>
6051	B	01	101	000				F

**Difference**                            0.00

**Adjustments**

Manual	06/30/2024	SWEEP	Direct Pymt	23,854.09	TO SWEEP
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**GOODHUE CO ED DISTRICT  
2024-25 CASH FLOW**

**AS OF 7-17-24**

**JULY**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
7/1/2024	(20,928.28)	(9,194.74)	-	-	180.54	1,166,131.27
7/9/2024	(430,444.50)	-	255.36	-	-	735,942.13
7/15/2024	(215,249.41)	(301,019.29)	-	615,136.93	-	834,810.36
7/20/2024	(314,378.23)	-	347,021.96	-	-	867,454.09
7/31/2024	(181,950.95)	(264,541.40)	273,318.23	89,355.93	61,162.70	844,798.61
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(1,162,951.36)</b>	<b>(574,755.43)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>620,595.55</b>	<b>704,492.86</b>	<b>61,343.24</b>

**AUGUST**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
8/1/2024	(462,769.47)	-	149,744.63	-	210,570.08	742,343.85
8/4/2024	-	-	-	-	-	742,343.85
8/15/2024	(219,276.76)	(349,925.66)	1,079.47	339,552.54	-	513,773.43
8/17/2024	(364,740.85)	-	450,293.18	-	112,738.95	712,064.71
8/30/2024	(1,222,569.89)	(296,070.59)	898,853.00	356,027.17	181,971.89	630,276.29
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(2,269,356.98)</b>	<b>(645,996.25)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,499,970.28</b>	<b>695,579.71</b>	<b>505,280.92</b>

**SEPTEMBER**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
9/1/2024	(39,292.46)	-	29,270.97	-	-	620,254.81
9/15/2024	(329,524.79)	(273,004.38)	-	142,671.67	-	160,397.30
9/17/2024	-	-	586,354.71	-	-	746,752.01
9/30/2024	(786,395.85)	(303,168.31)	33,208.19	310,166.17	43,469.15	44,031.36
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(1,155,213.10)</b>	<b>(576,172.69)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,833.87</b>	<b>452,837.84</b>	<b>43,469.15</b>

**OCTOBER**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
10/1/2024	-	-	-	-	-	44,031.36
10/9/2024	-	-	881,977.82	-	193,109.31	1,119,118.50
10/15/2024	(932,656.86)	(280,457.66)	376,193.27	114,137.33	-	396,334.58
10/20/2024	-	-	337,093.68	-	-	733,428.26
10/31/2024	(459,561.72)	(284,572.83)	89,988.77	338,700.50	-	417,982.99
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(1,392,218.58)</b>	<b>(565,030.49)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,685,253.55</b>	<b>452,837.84</b>	<b>193,109.31</b>

**NOVEMBER**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
11/1/2024	(164,895.05)	-	-	-	829.28	253,917.22
11/5/2024	-	-	80,652.49	-	-	334,569.71
11/15/2024	(192,939.50)	(282,615.81)	-	142,671.67	-	1,686.08
11/20/2024	-	-	14.18	-	259,033.54	260,733.79
11/30/2024	(458,373.34)	(298,935.24)	326,793.46	228,274.67	9,991.32	68,484.65
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(816,207.89)</b>	<b>(581,551.05)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>407,460.12</b>	<b>370,946.34</b>	<b>269,854.14</b>

**DECEMBER**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
12/1/2024	-	-	-	-	-	68,484.65
12/8/2024	(241,258.77)	-	214,800.63	-	247,273.25	289,299.75
12/15/2024	(192,796.86)	(287,692.72)	221,985.96	313,877.67	137,318.10	481,991.89
12/20/2024	(85,335.60)	-	416,912.63	-	62,408.73	875,977.66
12/31/2024	(190,385.95)	(288,224.39)	1,484.57	171,206.00	-	570,057.90
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(709,777.18)</b>	<b>(575,917.11)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>855,183.79</b>	<b>485,083.67</b>	<b>447,000.08</b>

**JANUARY**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
1/1/2025	-	-	142,360.40		-	712,418.29
1/8/2025	(185,918.69)	-	-		-	526,499.60
1/15/2025	(996,536.03)	(262,992.73)	1,618.07	285,343.34	105,270.22	(340,797.54)
1/20/2025	-	-	322,315.70		-	(18,481.84)
1/31/2025	-	(275,249.43)	151,320.75	228,274.67	1,603.66	87,467.81
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(1,182,454.73)</b>	<b>(538,242.16)</b>	<b>617,614.91</b>	<b>513,618.00</b>	<b>106,873.89</b>	<b>87,467.81</b>

**FEBRUARY**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
2/1/2025	(402,446.18)	-	213,371.69		22,919.27	(78,687.41)
2/15/2025	(195,550.90)	(286,735.61)	177,267.30	228,274.67	6,035.04	(149,396.92)
2/20/2025	(48,060.06)	-	277,058.20		-	79,601.22
2/28/2025	(531,427.76)	(277,444.74)	279,117.60	475,343.34	161,373.18	186,562.83
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(1,177,484.91)</b>	<b>(564,180.35)</b>	<b>946,814.79</b>	<b>703,618.00</b>	<b>190,327.49</b>	<b>186,562.83</b>

**MARCH**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
3/1/2025	-	-	305,591.48		28,788.70	520,943.01
3/15/2025	(411,889.95)	(277,398.66)	236,935.96	285,343.34	-	353,933.69
3/20/2025	-	-	363,513.45		-	717,447.13
3/31/2025	(432,403.77)	(274,877.81)	70,548.50	342,412.00	-	423,126.06
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(844,293.72)</b>	<b>(552,276.47)</b>	<b>976,589.38</b>	<b>627,755.34</b>	<b>28,788.70</b>	<b>423,126.06</b>

**APRIL**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
4/9/2025	-	-	151,518.81		-	574,644.86
4/15/2025	(360,107.20)	(263,326.75)	602,324.55	228,274.67	263,759.95	1,045,570.09
4/20/2025	-	-	256,476.55		-	1,302,046.64
4/30/2025	(433,369.45)	(302,357.65)	2,256.88	455,312.17	-	1,023,888.59
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(793,476.65)</b>	<b>(565,684.39)</b>	<b>1,012,576.79</b>	<b>683,586.84</b>	<b>263,759.95</b>	<b>1,023,888.59</b>

**MAY**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
5/1/2025	(251,706.29)	-	-		862.59	773,044.89
5/15/2025	(343,011.36)	(305,000.00)	232,147.96	285,343.34	-	642,524.83
5/20/2025	(154,144.83)	-	351,448.48		-	839,828.47
5/31/2025	(234,354.48)	(338,897.46)	221,192.30	285,343.34	-	773,112.18
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(983,216.95)</b>	<b>(643,897.46)</b>	<b>804,788.74</b>	<b>570,686.67</b>	<b>862.59</b>	<b>773,112.18</b>

**JUNE**

DATE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	PAYROLL	MISC. RECEIPTS	STATE AID	FEDERAL GRANT	RUNNING BALANCE
6/1/2025	(489,389.13)	-	704,652.44		-	988,375.49
6/15/2025	(223,675.69)	(319,983.92)	375,050.79		-	819,766.67
6/20/2025	-	-	439,044.67	285,343.34	-	1,544,154.67
6/30/2025	(411,775.79)	(296,362.63)	105,758.69		323,955.28	1,265,730.24
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>(1,124,840.60)</b>	<b>(616,346.54)</b>	<b>1,624,506.58</b>	<b>285,343.34</b>	<b>323,955.28</b>	<b>1,265,730.24</b>

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>(13,611,492.64)</b>	<b>(7,000,050.39)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,700,188.35</b>	<b>6,546,386.43</b>	<b>2,434,624.73</b>	<b>1,265,730.24</b>
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## **Business Manager Report 7-25-24**

### **Budget 2023-24 as of 6/30/24**

This is the first look at year end for fiscal year 2023-24. We have received \$16,895,067 or 90.25% of the revised budget. We have expended \$17,297,168 or 91.99% of the revised expense budget. There are still many receivables and payables to be entered as we move toward our audit in Oct.

### **Cash Flow**

For your information. Has improved and is looking good through the end of the fiscal year. 2024-25 Cash flow has some lower spots through the winter right now. We'll keep an eye on it as we get closer to Nov-Dec.

### **June Bank Rec**

For your information

# REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SOURCE, OBJECT SERIES & PROGRAM SERIES

Goodhue Co Ed District | June 30, 2024

REVENUE CATEGORIES						June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	Current YTD vs. PYTD	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	Revised Budget	Received YTD	Budget Remaining	% of Budget Received	% of Actuals Received	% of Actuals Received			
STATE	4,813,151	5,526,275	5,804,871	4,673,254	1,131,617	80.51%	100.00%	100.00%	(853,021)	5,526,275	4,813,151
FEDERAL	2,251,202	2,587,427	2,260,703	1,662,596	598,107	73.54%	100.00%	100.00%	(924,830)	2,587,427	2,251,202
PROPERTY TAXES	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0
LOCAL SALES, INS RECOVERY & JUDGEMENTS	685	(38)	0	18,260	(18,260)	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	18,298	(38)	685
SALE OF BONDS & LOANS	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0
INCOMING TRANSFERS FROM OTH FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0
LOCAL (FEES, INTEREST, ETC.)	9,223,672	9,891,895	10,655,749	10,540,956	114,793	98.92%	100.00%	100.00%	649,062	9,891,895	9,223,672
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,288,710</b>	<b>18,005,558</b>	<b>18,721,323</b>	<b>16,895,067</b>	<b>1,826,256</b>	<b>90.25%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(1,110,491)</b>	<b>18,005,558</b>	<b>16,288,710</b>

EXPENDITURES (OBJECT SERIES)						June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	Current YTD vs. PYTD	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	Revised Budget	Expended YTD	Budget Remaining	% of Budget Expended	% of Actuals Expended	% of Actuals Expended			
SALARIES & WAGES	8,344,468	9,460,185	9,916,686	10,076,242	(159,556)	101.61%	100.00%	100.00%	616,057	9,460,185	8,344,468
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,223,951	2,512,992	2,561,895	2,689,577	(127,682)	104.98%	100.00%	100.00%	176,585	2,512,992	2,223,951
PURCHASED SERVICES	3,795,640	4,342,464	4,440,752	2,644,069	1,796,683	59.54%	100.00%	100.00%	(1,698,395)	4,342,464	3,795,640
SUPPLIES	890,342	742,772	773,369	785,382	(12,013)	101.55%	100.00%	100.00%	42,610	742,772	890,342
EQUIPMENT	1,128,431	1,122,686	1,084,745	1,075,924	8,821	99.19%	100.00%	100.00%	(46,762)	1,122,686	1,128,431
DEBT SERVICE	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0
OTHER EXPENDITURES	21,215	119,374	26,150	25,974	176	99.33%	100.00%	100.00%	(93,401)	119,374	21,215
OTHER FINANCING USES	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,404,047</b>	<b>18,300,473</b>	<b>18,803,597</b>	<b>17,297,168</b>	<b>1,506,429</b>	<b>91.99%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(1,003,305)</b>	<b>18,300,473</b>	<b>16,404,047</b>

EXPENDITURES (PROGRAM SERIES)						June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	Current YTD vs. PYTD	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	Revised Budget	Expended YTD	Budget Remaining	% of Budget Expended	% of Actuals Expended	% of Actuals Expended			
SITE ADMINISTRATION	287,209	320,461	325,209	356,092	(30,883)	109.50%	100.00%	100.00%	35,631	320,461	287,209
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION	69,508	68,996	74,691	72,144	2,547	96.59%	100.00%	100.00%	3,148	68,996	69,508
SUPPORT SERVICES	245,155	250,828	300,137	415,450	(115,313)	138.42%	100.00%	100.00%	164,622	250,828	245,155
REGULAR INSTRUCTION	2,522,391	3,033,317	3,013,938	2,112,090	901,848	70.08%	100.00%	100.00%	(921,228)	3,033,317	2,522,391
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0
VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTION	351,614	299,927	385,019	339,544	45,475	88.19%	100.00%	100.00%	39,617	299,927	351,614
SPECIAL EDUCATION	9,014,155	10,162,969	10,478,105	9,723,532	754,573	92.80%	100.00%	100.00%	(439,437)	10,162,969	9,014,155
COMMUNITY SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	698,392	752,469	553,089	549,931	3,158	99.43%	100.00%	100.00%	(202,539)	752,469	698,392
PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES	1,800,017	1,982,331	2,197,000	2,454,120	(257,120)	111.70%	100.00%	100.00%	471,788	1,982,331	1,800,017
FACILITIES	1,415,606	1,429,174	1,476,409	1,274,265	202,144	86.31%	100.00%	100.00%	(154,909)	1,429,174	1,415,606
OTHER FINANCING USES	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,404,047</b>	<b>18,300,473</b>	<b>18,803,597</b>	<b>17,297,168</b>	<b>1,506,429</b>	<b>91.99%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(1,003,305)</b>	<b>18,300,473</b>	<b>16,404,047</b>

SUMMARY - ALL FUNDS						June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	Current YTD vs. PYTD	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	Revised Budget	YTD	Budget Remaining	% of Budget Expended	% of Actuals Expended	% of Actuals Expended			
<b>SUMMARY</b>											
REVENUE	16,288,710	18,005,558	18,721,323	16,895,067	1,826,256	90.25%	100.00%	100.00%	(1,110,491)	18,005,558	16,288,710
EXPENDITURES	16,404,047	18,300,473	18,803,597	17,297,168	1,506,429	91.99%	100.00%	100.00%	(1,003,305)	18,300,473	16,404,047
SPENDING VARIANCE	(115,336)	(294,915)	(82,274)	(402,101)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(107,186)	(294,915)	(115,336)

- V. B. Youth Prevention Specialist Introduction & Information
- Old Business:**
- A. 2024-25 Calendar Update

# Goodhue County Education District 2024-2025 Calendar

GCED Board Approved on 2/22/24

*\*The calendar may be adjusted due to school closures or other circumstances*

<b>School Closed (No students or staff)</b>
<b>No Students; Teacher workday</b>
<b>Early Release/Tchr PLC</b>
<b>Conferences</b>
<b>First/Last Day of Semester/Quarter</b>

## July 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## January 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1 School Closed (No students or staff)
- 2 & 3** No Students; Teacher Workdays
- 17** Last Day of Semester 1/Qtr 2
- 20** No Students; Teacher Workday
- 21** 1st Day of Semester 2/Quarter 3

*19 Student/22 Staff Days*

## August 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

*0 Student/6.5 Staff Days*

## February 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

*18 Student/20 Staff Days*

- 12** Early Release/Tchr PLC
- 14** No Students; Teacher Workday
- 17** No Students; Teacher Workday

- 22-29** No Students; Teacher Workdays
- 28** Open House 3:30 - 7:30 pm
- 30** School Closed (No students or staff)

## September 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

*20 Student/20 Staff Days*

## March 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

*16 Student/16.25 Staff Days*

- 12** Early Release/Tchr PLC
- 13** Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-6 pm
- 17-21** School Closed (No students or staff)
- 28** End of Quarter 3
- 31** Start of Quarter 4

- 2** School Closed (No students or staff)
- 3** First Student Day
- 18** Early Release/Tchr PLC

## October 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*21 Student/21.25 Staff Days*

## April 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

*20 Student/21 Staff Days*

- 9** Early Release/Tchr PLC
- 18** School Closed (No students or staff)
- 21** No Students; Teacher Workday

- 10** Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-6 pm
- 16** Early Release/Tchr PLC
- 17 & 18** School Closed (No students or staff)

## November 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

*18 Student/19 Staff Days*

## May 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

*21 Student/21 Staff Days*

- 14** Early Release/Tchr PLC
- 26** School Closed (No students or staff)
- 30** Last Student Day/End of Semester 2/Q4

- 1** Last Day of Quarter 1
- 4** No students; Teacher Workday
- 5** First Day of Quarter 2
- 27** Early Release/Tchr PLC
- 28 & 29** School Closed (No students or staff)

## December 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

*15 Student/15 Staff Days*

## June 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

*0 Student/3 Staff Days*

- 2-4** No Students; Teacher Workdays

- 18** Early Release/Tchr PLC
- 23-31** School Closed (No students or staff)

Student Days = 168    Staff Days = 186

Teaching Staff = 168 Student + 16 Duty + 1 Conf/Open House + 1 Flex PD (PCM will cover one day for REACH staff)

Semester 1 = 84; Semester 2 = 84

Qtr 1 = 42; Qtr 2 = 42; Qtr 3 = 42; Qtr 4 = 42



- VI. **New Business:**
  - A. 2024-25 GCED Restrictive Procedures Manual

**125A.0941 DEFINITIONS.**

(a) The following terms have the meanings given them.

(b) "Emergency" means a situation where immediate intervention is needed to protect a child or other individual from physical injury. Emergency does not mean circumstances such as: a child who does not respond to a task or request and instead places his or her head on a desk or hides under a desk or table; a child who does not respond to a staff person's request unless failing to respond would result in physical injury to the child or other individual; or an emergency incident has already occurred and no threat of physical injury currently exists.

(c) "Physical holding" means physical intervention intended to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement, where body contact is the only source of physical restraint, and where immobilization is used to effectively gain control of a child in order to protect a child or other individual from physical injury. The term physical holding does not mean physical contact that:

- (1) helps a child respond or complete a task;
- (2) assists a child without restricting the child's movement;
- (3) is needed to administer an authorized health-related service or procedure; or
- (4) is needed to physically escort a child when the child does not resist or the child's resistance is minimal.

(d) "Positive behavioral interventions and supports" means interventions and strategies to improve the school environment and teach children the skills to behave appropriately, including the key components under section 122A.627.

(e) "Prone restraint" means placing a child in a face down position.

(f) "Restrictive procedures" means the use of physical holding or seclusion in an emergency. Restrictive procedures must not be used to punish or otherwise discipline a child.

(g) "Seclusion" means confining a child alone in a room from which egress is barred. Egress may be barred by an adult locking or closing the door in the room or preventing the child from leaving the room. Removing a child from an activity to a location where the child cannot participate in or observe the activity is not seclusion.

**History:** 2009 c 96 art 3 s 10; 2012 c 146 s 1; 2013 c 116 art 5 s 3; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 4 s 2

**125A.0942 STANDARDS FOR RESTRICTIVE PROCEDURES.**

Subdivision 1. **Restrictive procedures plan.** (a) Schools that intend to use restrictive procedures shall maintain and make publicly accessible in an electronic format on a school or district website or make a paper copy available upon request describing a restrictive procedures plan for children with disabilities that at least:

(1) lists the restrictive procedures the school intends to use;

(2) describes how the school will implement a range of positive behavior strategies and provide links to mental health services;

(3) describes how the school will provide training on de-escalation techniques, consistent with section 122A.187, subdivision 4;

(4) describes how the school will monitor and review the use of restrictive procedures, including:

(i) conducting post-use debriefings, consistent with subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (5); and

(ii) convening an oversight committee to undertake a quarterly review of the use of restrictive procedures based on patterns or problems indicated by similarities in the time of day, day of the week, duration of the use of a procedure, the individuals involved, or other factors associated with the use of restrictive procedures; the number of times a restrictive procedure is used schoolwide and for individual children; the number and types of injuries, if any, resulting from the use of restrictive procedures; whether restrictive procedures are used in nonemergency situations; the need for additional staff training; and proposed actions to minimize the use of restrictive procedures; any disproportionate use of restrictive procedures based on race, gender, or disability status; the role of the school resource officer or police in emergencies and the use of restrictive procedures; and documentation to determine if the standards for using restrictive procedures as described in sections 125A.0941 and 125A.0942 are met; and

(5) includes a written description and documentation of the training staff completed under subdivision 5.

(b) Schools annually must publicly identify oversight committee members who must at least include:

(1) a mental health professional, school psychologist, or school social worker;

(2) an expert in positive behavior strategies;

(3) a special education administrator; and

(4) a general education administrator.

Subd. 2. **Restrictive procedures.** (a) Restrictive procedures may be used only by a licensed special education teacher, school social worker, school psychologist, behavior analyst certified by the National Behavior Analyst Certification Board, a person with a master's degree in behavior analysis, other licensed education professional, paraprofessional under section 120B.363, or mental health professional under section 245.4871, subdivision 27, who has completed the training program under subdivision 5.

(b) A school shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent on the same day a restrictive procedure is used on the child, or if the school is unable to provide same-day notice, notice is sent within two days by written or electronic means or as otherwise indicated by the child's parent under paragraph (f).

(c) The district must hold a meeting of the individualized education program or individualized family service plan team, conduct or review a functional behavioral analysis, review data, consider developing additional or revised positive behavioral interventions and supports, consider actions to reduce the use of restrictive procedures, and modify the individualized education program, individualized family service plan, or behavior intervention plan as appropriate. The district must hold the meeting: within ten calendar days after district staff use restrictive procedures on two separate school days within 30 calendar days or a pattern of use emerges and the child's individualized education program, individualized family service plan, or behavior intervention plan does not provide for using restrictive procedures in an emergency; or at the request of a parent or the district after restrictive procedures are used. The district must review use of restrictive procedures at a child's annual individualized education program or individualized family service plan meeting when the child's individualized education program or individualized family service plan provides for using restrictive procedures in an emergency.

(d) If the individualized education program or individualized family service plan team under paragraph (c) determines that existing interventions and supports are ineffective in reducing the use of restrictive procedures or the district uses restrictive procedures on a child on ten or more school days during the same school year, the team, as appropriate, either must consult with other professionals working with the child; consult with experts in behavior analysis, mental health, communication, or autism; consult with culturally competent professionals; review existing evaluations, resources, and successful strategies; or consider whether to reevaluate the child.

(e) At the individualized education program or individualized family service plan meeting under paragraph (c), the team must review any known medical or psychological limitations, including any medical information the parent provides voluntarily, that contraindicate the use of a restrictive procedure, consider whether to prohibit that restrictive procedure, and document any prohibition in the individualized education program, individualized family service plan, or behavior intervention plan.

(f) An individualized education program or individualized family service plan team may plan for using restrictive procedures and may include these procedures in a child's individualized education program, individualized family service plan, or behavior intervention plan; however, the restrictive procedures may be used only in response to behavior that constitutes an emergency, consistent with this section. The individualized education program, individualized family service plan, or behavior intervention plan shall indicate how the parent wants to be notified when a restrictive procedure is used.

**Subd. 3. Physical holding or seclusion.** (a) Physical holding or seclusion may be used only in an emergency. A school that uses physical holding or seclusion shall meet the following requirements:

(1) physical holding or seclusion is the least intrusive intervention that effectively responds to the emergency;

(2) physical holding or seclusion is not used to discipline a noncompliant child;

(3) physical holding or seclusion ends when the threat of harm ends and the staff determines the child can safely return to the classroom or activity;

(4) staff directly observes the child while physical holding or seclusion is being used;

(5) each time physical holding or seclusion is used, the staff person who implements or oversees the physical holding or seclusion documents, as soon as possible after the incident concludes, the following information:

(i) a description of the incident that led to the physical holding or seclusion;

- (ii) why a less restrictive measure failed or was determined by staff to be inappropriate or impractical;
  - (iii) the time the physical holding or seclusion began and the time the child was released;
  - (iv) a brief record of the child's behavioral and physical status; and
  - (v) a brief description of the post-use debriefing that occurred as a result of the use of the physical hold or seclusion;
- (6) the room used for seclusion must:
- (i) be at least six feet by five feet;
  - (ii) be well lit, well ventilated, adequately heated, and clean;
  - (iii) have a window that allows staff to directly observe a child in seclusion;
  - (iv) have tamperproof fixtures, electrical switches located immediately outside the door, and secure ceilings;
  - (v) have doors that open out and are unlocked, locked with keyless locks that have immediate release mechanisms, or locked with locks that have immediate release mechanisms connected with a fire and emergency system; and
  - (vi) not contain objects that a child may use to injure the child or others; and
- (7) before using a room for seclusion, a school must:
- (i) receive written notice from local authorities that the room and the locking mechanisms comply with applicable building, fire, and safety codes; and
  - (ii) register the room with the commissioner, who may view that room.

(b) By February 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, stakeholders may, as necessary, recommend to the commissioner specific and measurable implementation and outcome goals for reducing the use of restrictive procedures and the commissioner must submit to the legislature a report on districts' progress in reducing the use of restrictive procedures that recommends how to further reduce these procedures and eliminate the use of seclusion. The statewide plan includes the following components: measurable goals; the resources, training, technical assistance, mental health services, and collaborative efforts needed to significantly reduce districts' use of seclusion; and recommendations to clarify and improve the law governing districts' use of restrictive procedures. The commissioner must consult with interested stakeholders when preparing the report, including representatives of advocacy organizations, special education directors, teachers, paraprofessionals, intermediate school districts, school boards, day treatment providers, county social services, state human services department staff, mental health professionals, and autism experts. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, in a form and manner determined by the commissioner, districts must report data quarterly to the department by January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 about individual students who have been secluded. By July 15 each year, districts must report summary data on their use of restrictive procedures to the department for the prior school year, July 1 through June 30, in a form and manner determined by the commissioner. The summary data must include information about the use of restrictive procedures, including use of reasonable force under section 121A.582.

Subd. 4. **Prohibitions.** The following actions or procedures are prohibited:

- (1) engaging in conduct prohibited under section 121A.58;

(2) requiring a child to assume and maintain a specified physical position, activity, or posture that induces physical pain;

(3) totally or partially restricting a child's senses as punishment;

(4) presenting an intense sound, light, or other sensory stimuli using smell, taste, substance, or spray as punishment;

(5) denying or restricting a child's access to equipment and devices such as walkers, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and communication boards that facilitate the child's functioning, except when temporarily removing the equipment or device is needed to prevent injury to the child or others or serious damage to the equipment or device, in which case the equipment or device shall be returned to the child as soon as possible;

(6) interacting with a child in a manner that constitutes sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse under chapter 260E;

(7) withholding regularly scheduled meals or water;

(8) denying access to bathroom facilities;

(9) physical holding that restricts or impairs a child's ability to breathe, restricts or impairs a child's ability to communicate distress, places pressure or weight on a child's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen, or results in straddling a child's torso;

(10) prone restraint; and

(11) the use of seclusion on children from birth through grade 3 by September 1, 2024.

Subd. 5. **Training for staff.** (a) To meet the requirements of subdivision 1, staff who use restrictive procedures, including paraprofessionals, shall complete training in the following skills and knowledge areas:

(1) positive behavioral interventions;

(2) communicative intent of behaviors;

(3) relationship building;

(4) alternatives to restrictive procedures, including techniques to identify events and environmental factors that may escalate behavior;

(5) de-escalation methods;

(6) standards for using restrictive procedures only in an emergency;

(7) obtaining emergency medical assistance;

(8) the physiological and psychological impact of physical holding and seclusion;

(9) monitoring and responding to a child's physical signs of distress when physical holding is being used;

(10) recognizing the symptoms of and interventions that may cause positional asphyxia when physical holding is used;

(11) district policies and procedures for timely reporting and documenting each incident involving use of a restricted procedure; and

(12) schoolwide programs on positive behavior strategies.

(b) The commissioner, after consulting with the commissioner of human services, must develop and maintain a list of training programs that satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a). The commissioner also must develop and maintain a list of experts to help individualized education program or individualized family service plan teams reduce the use of restrictive procedures. The district shall maintain records of staff who have been trained and the organization or professional that conducted the training. The district may collaborate with children's community mental health providers to coordinate trainings.

**Subd. 6. Behavior supports; reasonable force.** (a) School districts are encouraged to establish effective schoolwide systems of positive behavior interventions and supports.

(b) Nothing in this section or section 125A.0941 precludes the use of reasonable force under sections 121A.582; 609.06, subdivision 1; and 609.379. Any reasonable force used under sections 121A.582; 609.06, subdivision 1; and 609.379 which intends to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement where body contact is the only source of physical restraint or confines a child alone in a room from which egress is barred shall be reported to the Department of Education as a restrictive procedure, including physical holding or seclusion used by an unauthorized or untrained staff person.

(c) By February 1, 2024, the commissioner, in cooperation with stakeholders, must make recommendations to the legislature for urgently ending seclusion in Minnesota schools. The commissioner must consult with interested stakeholders, including parents of students who have been secluded or restrained; advocacy organizations; legal services providers; special education directors; teachers; paraprofessionals; intermediate school districts and cooperative units as defined under section 123A.24, subdivision 2; school boards; day treatment providers; county social services; state human services department staff; mental health professionals; autism experts; and representatives of groups disproportionately affected by restrictive procedures, including People of Color and people with disabilities. The recommendations must include specific dates for ending seclusion by grade or facility. The recommendations must identify existing resources and the new resources necessary for staff capacity, staff training, children's supports, child mental health services, and schoolwide collaborative efforts.

**History:** 2009 c 96 art 3 s 11; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 3 s 2,12; 2012 c 146 s 2,3; 2013 c 116 art 5 s 4; 2014 c 312 art 17 s 1; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 5 s 15; 2016 c 189 art 29 s 7,8; 2018 c 182 art 1 s 33; 1Sp2020 c 2 art 8 s 17; 2023 c 55 art 7 s 8

# **Goodhue County Education District #6051**

## **Restrictive Procedures Plan**

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



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## **Goodhue County Education District #6051 Restrictive Procedures Plan**

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 125A.0942, subd. 1, schools that intend to use restrictive procedures shall maintain and make publicly accessible in an electronic format on a school or district website or make a paper copy available upon request describing a restrictive procedures plan for children with disabilities. Restrictive Procedure means the use of physical holding or seclusion in an emergency. The plan specifically outlines the list of restrictive procedures the school intends to use; describes how the school will implement a range of positive behavior strategies; links to mental health services; how the district will provide training on de-escalation techniques, consistent with 122A.187, subd. 4; how the school will monitor and review the use of restrictive procedures, including post use debriefings, consistent with subd. 3 paragraph (a), clause (5); convening an oversight committee to undertake quarterly reviews of the use of restrictive procedures; and a written description and documentation of the training and staff that have completed the training under subd. 5. This plan is available upon request.

The Goodhue County Education District #6051 uses restrictive procedures only in response to behavior(s) that constitutes an emergency, even if written into a child's Individual Education Plan (IEP), Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) or Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

### **A. Definitions**

The following terms are defined as:

1. "Emergency" means a situation where immediate intervention is needed to protect a child or other individual from physical injury. Emergency does not mean circumstances such as: a child who does not respond to a task or request and instead places his or her head on a desk or hides under a desk or table; a child who does not respond to a staff person's request unless failing to respond would result in physical injury to the child or other individual; or an emergency incident has already occurred and no threat of physical injury currently exists.
2. "Physical holding" means physical intervention intended to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement where body contact is the only source of physical restraint, and where immobilization is used to effectively gain control of a child in order to protect a child or other individual from physical injury. The term physical holding does not mean physical contact that:
  - a. helps a child respond or complete a task;
  - b. assists a child without restricting the child's movement;
  - c. is needed to administer an authorized health related service or procedure; or
  - d. is needed to physically escort a child when the child does not resist or the child's resistance is minimal.

3. "Positive behavioral interventions and supports" means interventions and strategies to improve the school environment and teach children the skills to behave appropriately, including the key components under section 122A.627.
4. "Prone restraint" means placing a child in a face down position.
5. "Restrictive procedures" means the use of physical holding or seclusion in an emergency. Restrictive procedures must not be used to punish or otherwise discipline a child.
6. "Seclusion" means confining a child alone in a room from which egress is barred. Egress may be barred by an adult locking or closing the door in the room or preventing the child from leaving the room. Removing a child from an activity to a location where the child cannot participate in or observe the activity is not seclusion.

## **B. Staff Training – Requirements and Activities**

### **Requirements**

Training will be provided to district staff and contracted staff who use restrictive procedures, including paraprofessionals.

Staff who design and use behavioral interventions will complete training in the use of positive approaches as well as restrictive procedures. All staff that use restrictive procedures in the Goodhue County Education District are trained in Professional Crisis Management Association (PCMA) procedures. At the first sight of anxiety in a child you will need to become supportive (an empathetic, nonjudgmental approach attempting to alleviate anxiety). Staff who design and use positive behavioral interventions will complete training in the communicative intent of behaviors including the following:

1. Questioning – Questioning authority and attempting to draw staff into power struggles.
2. Refusal – Noncompliance / slight loss of rationalization.
3. Release – Acting out or emotional outburst.
4. Intimidation – Verbal or nonverbal threatening.
5. Tension Reduction – Drop in energy after a crisis situation.

Staff who design and use positive behavioral interventions will complete training in the following relationship building strategies:

1. Building relationships with children when they are doing well.
2. Re-establishing relationships after children come back from a crisis.  
Re-establishing rapport.

Date of Plan: July 1, 2024

3. Provide children personal space.
4. Use appropriate nonverbal and paraverbal communication (tone, volume and cadence) when establishing relationships with children.

Staff who design and use behavioral strategies will complete training in the following alternatives to restrictive procedures, including techniques to identify events and environmental factors that may escalate behavior:

1. Recognizing anxiety.
2. Recognizing nonverbal behavior.
3. Giving children time and space to release.

Staff who design and use behavioral strategies will complete training in the following de-escalation methods:

1. Time and space
2. Someone to talk with
3. Walk/Exercise/Movement

Staff who use restrictive procedures will implement the following standards for use:

1. Only as a last resort when a person is a danger to self or others.
2. Always maintaining the Care, Welfare, Safety and Security of all.

Staff who design and use behavioral strategies will follow the Goodhue County Education District #6051 Safety and Emergency Action Plan in an emergency situation. Staff will also recognize that the physiological and psychological impact of physical holding and seclusion is different for all children. Staff must analyze, be aware of, and respond to this impact. Everyone being restrained should be considered "at risk". Interventions will be monitored for physical and psychological distress including the symptoms of and interventions that may cause potential asphyxia when physical holding is used.

Staff will be trained on district policies and procedures for timely reporting and documenting of each incident involving use of a restricted procedures;

Staff will be trained on schoolwide programs on positive behavior strategies at the district level.

Training records will identify the content of the training, attendees, and training dates. Goodhue County Education District #6051 will compile a list of all PCMA training and forward attendance records to the district on a quarterly basis. The

district will maintain records of additional training provided within the district. Records of all training will be maintained at each building site. See Appendix A and B for Site Trainings and Attendance Forms, respectively.

Restrictive procedures may be used only by a licensed special education teacher, school social worker, school psychologist, behavior analyst certified by the National Behavior Analyst Certification Board, a person with a master's degree in behavior analysis, other licensed education professional, paraprofessional under section 120B.363 or mental health professional under section 245.4871 subd. 27, who has completed the training program under subd. 5.

### **C. Restrictive Procedures Approved for Use**

1. Physical holding or seclusion may be used only in an emergency. A school that uses physical holding or seclusion shall meet the following requirements:
  - a. physical holding or seclusion is the least intrusive intervention that effectively responds to the emergency;
  - b. physical holding or seclusion is not used to discipline a noncompliant child;
  - c. physical holding or seclusion ends when the threat of harm ends and the staff determines the child can safely return to the classroom or activity;
  - d. staff directly observes the child while physical holding or seclusion is being used;
  - e. each time physical holding or seclusion is used, the staff person who implements or oversees the physical holding or seclusion documents, as soon as possible after the incident concludes, the following information:
    - i. a description of the incident that led to the physical holding or seclusion;
    - ii. why a less restrictive measure failed or was determined by staff to be inappropriate or impractical;
    - iii. the time the physical holding or seclusion began and the time the child was released;
    - iv. a brief record of the child's behavioral and physical status; and

- v. a brief description of the post-use debriefing that occurred as a result of the use of the physical hold or seclusion; and
- f. the room used for seclusion must:
  - i. be at least six feet by five feet;
  - ii. be well lit, well ventilated, adequately heated, and clean;
  - iii. have a window that allows staff to directly observe a child in seclusion;
  - iv. have tamper proof fixtures, electrical switches located immediately outside the door, and secure ceilings;
  - v. have doors that open out and are unlocked, locked with keyless locks that have immediate release mechanisms, or locked with locks that have immediate release mechanisms connected with a fire and emergency system;
  - vi. not contain objects that a child may use to injure the child or others; and
- g. before using a room for seclusion, a school must:
  - i. receive written notice from local authorities that the room and the locking mechanisms comply with the applicable building, fire, and safety codes; and
  - ii. register the room with the commissioner, who may view that room.

### **Physical Holdings**

All buildings in the Goodhue County Education District #6051 intends to use the following types of physical holding when trained in PCMA: 1 Person Transportation, 2 Person Transportation, 1 Person Vertical Immobilization, 2 Person Vertical Immobilization, 3 Person Vertical Immobilization, 3 Person Supine Barr may be used. Training and monitoring by a qualified PCMA Instructor will be provided to staff using these procedures.

### **Seclusion**

Attached, as Appendix D, is written notice from local authorities that the rooms and the locking mechanisms comply with applicable building, fire, and safety codes. The written notice was received from the Deputy State Fire Marshal, Inspector for Goodhue County on August 17, 2015. Room D100.6 is registered with the Minnesota Department of Education. Specifications of Room # D100.6 are included

in Appendix D. This form will be completed and/or updated by the Goodhue County Education District Director or their designee.

No other buildings in the Goodhue County Education District #6051 will use any locked time out rooms for seclusion.

**Notification to Parents**

A school shall make:

1. Reasonable efforts to notify the parent on the same day a restrictive procedure is used on the child; or
2. If unable to provide same-day notice, notice is sent within two days by written or electronic means; or as otherwise indicated by the parent in the child's IEP, IFSP or BIP.

**Reporting Requirements for Using Restrictive Procedures**

Goodhue County Education District must report summary data to MDE by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year, on districts' use of restrictive procedures during that school year, including data on:

1. The number of incidents involving restrictive procedures;
2. The total number of children on which restrictive procedures were used;
3. The number of resulting injuries;
4. Relevant demographic data on the children and school;
5. Any disproportionate use of restrictive procedures based on race, gender, or disability status;
6. The role of the school resource officer or police in emergencies; and
7. Other relevant data collected by the district.

Within 24 hours after a child with a disability suffers death or serious injury, the Goodhue County Education District must notify the Office of the Ombudsman of the death or serious injury. Reports of death or serious injury may be done by faxing a completed form to the Office of the Ombudsman.

**Reporting Requirement – Serious Injury**

“Serious Injury” means:

1. Fractures;

2. Dislocations;
3. Evidence of internal injuries;
4. Head injuries with loss of consciousness;
5. Lacerations involving injuries to tendons or organs and those for which complications are present;
6. Extensive second-degree or third-degree burns, and other burns for which complications are present;
7. Extensive second-degree or third-degree frostbite, and others for which complications are present;
8. Irreversible mobility or avulsion of teeth;
9. Injuries to the eyeball;
10. Ingestions of foreign substances and objects that are harmful;
11. Near drowning;
12. Heat exhaustion or sunstroke; and
13. All other injuries considered serious by a physician\*

Additionally, the Office of the Ombudsman asks that instances of self-injurious behaviors (SIB) or suicide attempts be reported to the Office when the injury results in hospitalization of the child or the need for medical treatment.

*\*further defined by the Office of the Ombudsman to include complications of a previous injury, complications of medical treatment, and other.*

#### **D. Prohibited Procedures**

The following actions or procedures are prohibited:

1. Engaging in conduct prohibited under 121A.58;
2. Requiring a child to assume and maintain a specified physical position, activity, or posture that induces physical pain;
3. Totally or partially restricting a child's senses as punishment.
4. Presenting an intense sound, light, or other sensory stimuli using smell, taste, substance, or spray as punishment;
5. Denying or restricting a child's access to equipment and devices such as walkers, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and communication boards that facilitate



a child's functioning, except when temporarily removing the equipment or device is needed to prevent injury to the child or others or serious damage to the equipment or device, in which case the equipment or device shall be returned to the child as soon as possible;

6. Interacting with a child in a manner that constitutes sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse under chapter 260E;
7. Withholding regularly scheduled meals or water;
8. Denying the child access to bathroom facilities;
9. Physical holding that restricts or impairs a child's ability to breathe, restricts or impairs a child's ability to communicate distress, places pressure or weight on a child's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen, or results in straddling a child's torso.
10. Prone restraint; and
11. The use of seclusion on children from birth through grade 3 by September 1, 2024.

#### **E. Documentation of Physical Holding and Seclusion**

Annually, stakeholders may, as necessary, recommend to the commissioner specific and measurable implementation and outcome goals for reducing the use of restrictive procedures and the commissioner must submit to the legislature a report on districts' progress in reducing the use of restrictive procedures that recommends how to further reduce these procedures and eliminate the use of seclusion. The statewide plan includes the following components: measurable goals; the resources, training, technical assistance, mental health services, and collaborative efforts needed to significantly reduce districts' use of seclusion; and recommendations to clarify and improve the law governing districts' use of restrictive procedures. The commissioner must consult with interested stakeholders when preparing the report, including representatives of advocacy organizations, special education directors, teachers, paraprofessionals, intermediate school districts, school boards, day treatment providers, county social services, state human services department staff, mental health professionals, and autism experts. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, in a form and manner determined by the commissioner, districts must report data quarterly to the department by January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 about individual children who have been secluded. By July 15 each year, districts must report summary data on their use of physical holds to the department for the prior school year, July 1 through June 30, in a form and manner determined by the commissioner. The summary data must include information about the use of restrictive procedures, including use of reasonable force under section 121A.582.

The use of restrictive procedures in emergency situations will be documented through the use of the Restrictive Procedures Physical Holding Form (see Appendix E), Restrictive Procedures Seclusion Form (see Appendix F), and the Staff Debriefing Meeting Form (see Appendix G).

**F. Documentation of Post-use Staff Debriefing Meeting**

Each time physical holding or seclusion is used, the staff person who implemented or oversaw the physical holding or seclusion shall document as soon as possible after the incident concluded and conduct a post-use debriefing with involved staff within 2 school days of the incident after the restrictive procedure concludes. There will be at least one staff member attending the debriefing meeting who was not involved in the incident and has knowledge of behaviors. A copy of the Restrictive Procedures Physical Holding Form (see Appendix E) and/or Restrictive Procedures Seclusion Form (see Appendix F) and the Staff Debriefing Meeting Form (see Appendix G) will be sent to: the child's case manager, the building principal, the Goodhue County Education District Director, and a copy placed in the child's due process file. The Goodhue County Education District Director will keep a comprehensive file of all restrictive procedure forms to be used by the Building Oversight Committee (see Appendix H for list of committee members).

If the post-use debriefing meeting reveals that the use of physical holding or seclusion was not used appropriately, the Building Oversight Committee will convene immediately to ensure corrective action is taken. The Building Oversight Committee will review and evaluate the Restrictive Procedures Physical Holding Form (see Appendix E), the Restrictive Procedures Seclusion Form (see Appendix F), and the Staff Debriefing Meeting Form (Appendix G) to determine and recommend training needs.

**G. Documentation for an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or an Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP)**

The use of restrictive procedures in response to an emergency may be documented in the child's IEP, IFSP or a behavior intervention plan (BIP) attached to the IEP or IFSP. Reviews will be conducted in accordance with MN Statute which requires the district will hold a meeting of the IEP or IFSP team, conduct or review a functional behavioral analysis, review data, consider developing additional or revised positive behavioral interventions and supports, consider actions to reduce the use of restrictive procedures, and modify the IEP, IFSP or BIP as appropriate. The district must hold the meeting: within ten calendar days after district staff use restrictive procedures on two separate school days within 30 calendar days or a pattern of use emerges and the child's IEP, IFSP or BIP does not provide for using restrictive procedures in an emergency; or at the request of a parent or the district after restrictive procedures are used. The district must review use of restrictive procedures at a child's annual IEP or IFSP meeting when the child's IEP or IFSP provides for using restrictive procedures in an emergency. If the IEP or IFSP

team determines that existing interventions and supports are ineffective in reducing the use of restrictive procedures or the district uses restrictive procedures on a child on ten or more school days during the same school year, the team, as appropriate, either must consult with other professionals working with the child; consult with experts in behavior analysis, mental health, communication, or autism; consult with culturally competent professionals; review existing evaluations, resources, and successful strategies; or consider whether to reevaluate the child. At the meeting the team will review any known medical or psychological limitations, including any medical information the parent provides voluntarily, that contraindicate the use of a restrictive procedure, consider whether to prohibit that restrictive procedure, and document any prohibition in the IEP, IFSP or BIP.

Record retention will be in accordance with district policies on student records.

#### **H. Building Oversight Committees**

The Building Oversight Committee will meet quarterly to review data provided in the Restrictive Procedures Physical Holding Form (see Appendix E), Restrictive Procedures Seclusion Form (see Appendix F) and the Staff Debriefing Meeting form (see Appendix G). The Committee will complete the Building Oversight Committee Review Form (see Appendix I). The Building Oversight Committee will also complete the Annual Summary of Use of Restrictive Procedures form (see Appendix K). The Building Oversight Committee will make recommendations in regards to the District's Restrictive Procedures Plan and, if necessary, indicate training needs and establish a plan for addressing Committee recommendations.

If a post-use debriefing meeting reveals that the use of physical holding or seclusion was not used appropriately, the Building Oversight Committee will convene immediately to ensure corrective action is taken. The Building Oversight Committee will review and evaluate the Restrictive Procedures Physical Holding Form (see Appendix E), Restrictive Procedures Seclusion Form (see Appendix F), and the Staff Debriefing Meeting Form (see Appendix G) to determine and recommend training needs.

#### **I. Emergency Situations – Use of Restrictive Procedures**

The Goodhue County Education District #6051 shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent on the same day when restrictive procedures are used in an emergency. If the school is unable to provide same-day notice, notice will be sent by written or electronic means or as otherwise indicated by the parent. Documentation of how the parent wants to be notified when a restrictive procedure is used may be found in the IEP, IFSP or BIP.

Building administrators will receive written notification when restrictive procedures are used in emergency situations. Records will be reviewed and summarized annually.

## **J. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports**

The district is committed to using positive behavioral interventions and supports. Positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) means intervention and strategies to improve the school environment and teach children the skills to behave appropriately.

Each building in the Goodhue County Education District #6051 uses the following practices and procedures to teach expected behaviors and provide additional positive supports to children requiring further intervention:

1. In the Fall of 2010, a school-wide behavior plan was implemented which continues to be a staple. The items listed below were the most important attributes of this plan.
2. Assist the school/site (i.e. administrators, teachers, children, and support staff) in reaching academic and behavioral benchmarks and goals.
3. Create a positive learning environment throughout the school/site.
4. Teach that all activities and curricula in the school/site are positive actions, including: reading, writing, math, nutrition, social skills, etc.
5. Develop a caring environment that is free of disruptive behavior, bullying, substance use, and violence.
6. In creating a school wide plan with input from all staff we were able to garner and maintain staff buy-in throughout the process. We continue to expand and strengthen our system in the use of research based positive behavior interventions and an increased collection and use of data.
7. PBIS correlates with both our staff development goals and district AYP plans. Research, as cited multiple times on the PBIS website, indicates that academic achievement increases as behavioral referrals decrease. As part of our efforts to increase academic achievement and meet benchmarks, we understand the importance of having a cohesive and research driven response to child and staff behavior.
8. During this past year we have also had extensive training on Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Having a strong PLC model allows us to examine and get our hands around issues that face us as we strive to increase child performance. PLCs also give us a vehicle to expand the

knowledge base and implementation of new initiatives such as the implementation of PBIS.

9. In recent years, staff have also been trained in Life Space Crisis Intervention and Boy's Town.

**K. Mental Health Supports and Services**

One of the very first needs identified by The Mental Health Coalition of Goodhue County was a comprehensive mental health resource guide. These guides aim to increase mental health literacy and knowledge about how to access services. There are three guides: one for the community, one for school staff, and another for parents and caregivers. Visit [gced.k12.mn.us](http://gced.k12.mn.us), click on Resources then Mental Health for more information.

Nothing in this plan precludes the use of reasonable force under sections 121A.582; 609.06, subdivision 1; and 609.379. Any reasonable force used under sections 121A.582; 609.06, subdivision 1; and 609.379 which intends to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement where body contact is the only source of physical restraint or confines a child alone in a room from which egress is barred shall be reported to the Department of Education as a restrictive procedure, including physical holding or seclusion used by an unauthorized or untrained staff person.

**Skills and Knowledge Areas****River Bluff Education Center**

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Positive behavioral Interventions.  | * PCMA                        |
| 2. Communicative intent of behavior.   | * PCMA                        |
| 3. Relationship building.  | * PCMA                        |
| 4. Alternatives to restrictive procedures.   | * PCMA                        |
| 5. De-escalation methods.  | * PCMA                        |
| 6. Standards for using restrictive procedures.                                     | * PCMA                        |
| 7. Obtaining emergency medical assistance.   | * PCMA                        |
| 8. Psychological/Physiological impact of physical holding and seclusion.           | * PCMA                        |
| 9. Physical signs of distress during restraint.                                    | * PCMA; OH State Medical Info |
| 10. Recognizing symptoms of asphyxia during restraint.                             | * PCMA                        |
| 11. Verbal and nonverbal communication to convert/divert an aggressive individual. | *Ukeru                        |
| 12. Physical release techniques that keep both client and caregiver safe.          | *Ukeru                        |
| 13. Physical re-direction to avoid injury and self harm.                           | *Ukeru                        |
| 14. Safe-Blocking®-the only trauma-informed, restraint-free blocking technique.    | *Ukeru                        |

**Training: PCM and Ukeru**

**Date: 6/3/24, 6/4/24 and 8/12/24**

**Trainer: Brandon King, Shelly Angell, Nicole Gnotke and Julie Braford**

**Name of Attendee**

**Position**



The Goodhue County Education District has one room used for seclusion during the 2024-2025 year.



## Goodhue County Education District #6051 Seclusionary Locked Time Out Inspection Form

**Building:** River Bluff Education Center      **Date of Inspection:** August 17, 2015

**Room #:** D100.6      **Person(s) Completing Form:** Cherie Johnson

**Fire Marshall checked on:** August 17, 2015

**Registered with MDE on:** November 3, 2015

**Room Measurement:** 6'x5'4"

**Description of Lighting, Ventilation and Heating:** LED fixture. Ventilation goes through room at ceiling level – no opening into room

**Plan for Maintenance and Cleaning after Use:** The room is cleaned daily by the building custodial staff. Staff who use Room #D100.6 for seclusion will ensure the cleanliness of the room prior to and after each use.

**Window Measurement:** Room # D100.6 has a window in the door that measures 24"x4". When standing in front of the window, staff is able to see into the entire room.

**Location of fixtures including electrical outlets, switches, smoke detectors, heating and ventilation fan and lights:** There is one photoelectric smoke detector in the ceiling, a dimmer switch on the South wall, a sprinkler head in the ceiling(light hazard, quick response, security type sprinkler head), a ceiling diffuser (ducted supply air with a fire damper), and a return air grille in the ceiling (ducted return air with a fire damper).

- Are all fixtures tamperproof? Yes

**Description of ceiling (height and type):** Painted drywall and a height of 9ft above finished floor.

- Is the ceiling secure?       Yes      No

**Door and locking mechanisms:**

- Does the door open out?       Yes      No
- Does the door lock?       Yes      No      If yes, the locking mechanism must meet the following:
  - o The lock immediately releases upon activation of the fire alarm and sprinkler system?       Yes      No
  - o The locking device is designed to fail in the open position?       Yes      No
  - o The locking mechanism has been approved by the local authorities indicating that it complies with all applicable building, fire, and safety codes?       Yes      No
  - o The district's plan for monthly testing of the locking mechanism is that the custodian will check monthly.

**Describe for the school will ensure the room does not contain any objects the child may use to injure the child or others:** School staff will check Room # D100.6 prior to use and after each use and immediately remove any objects that could be used to injure the child or others.

**Any room that does not meet the MN law and statutory provisions must be repaired. The district's plan for repair is:** If at any time the room, locking mechanism, or any item in the room is found to be in need of repair, use of the room will immediately cease until repair can be made. Needed repairs will be reported to the custodian and the Goodhue County Education Director.

**Use of Restrictive Procedure - Physical Holding**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: Is the student Hispanic?  Yes  No What is the student's Race? (choose one or more)  
 American Indian or Alaska Native  Asian  
 Black or African American  White  
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

**Directions:** The staff person who implemented or oversaw a physical hold must complete this form each time a physical hold is utilized.

**Staff Involved:**

Name:	Position:	Role:	Trained:
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Person completing form: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY**

Was physical holding used to protect the student or others from physical injury?  Yes  No

Description of the emergency situation:

Description of the incident that led to the physical holding:

**PHYSICAL HOLDING**

Description of the physical holding and a brief description of the student's behavioral and physical status:

Was physical holding the least intrusive intervention to effectively respond to the emergency?  Yes  No  
Explain why a less restrictive intervention failed or was determined by staff to be inappropriate or impractical:

Did physical holding end when the threat of harm ended and staff determined that the student could safely return to the classroom or activity?  Yes  No

Explain:

Did staff directly observe the child during physical holding?  Yes  No

Explain:

Did staff sustain an injury as a result of the physical holding:  Yes  No

Did the student sustain an injury as a result of the physical holding?  Yes  No

Time physical holding began: \_\_\_\_\_ Ended: \_\_\_\_\_ Total time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Removal From School

Was the student removed from school by a police officer at the request of school personnel?  Yes  No

### Parent Notification

Parents must be notified the same day a restrictive procedure is used. A written or electronic notice must be sent home within two (2) days if unable to notify on the same day.

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Notified by: \_\_\_\_\_

How notified: \_\_\_\_\_

**Use of Restrictive Procedure - Seclusion**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: Is the student Hispanic?  Yes  No    What is the student's Race? (choose one or more)

American Indian or Alaska Native       Asian  
 Black or African American                       White  
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

**Directions:** Complete this form whenever a seclusion is used. All students must be monitored by an adult at all times. End the intervention when the threat of harm ends and staff determine that the student can safely return to the classroom or activity. A debriefing meeting must be held within two (2) days and a Staff Debriefing Meeting form completed..

**Staff Involved:**

Name:	Position:	Role:	Trained:
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Person completing form: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY**

Was seclusion used to protect the student or others from physical harm?  Yes  No

Description of the emergency situation:

Description of the incident that led to seclusion:

**SECLUSION**

Location of the seclusion room:

Did the room meet the requirements of a room used for seclusion?  Yes  No

Did the room contain objects that a student may use to injure themselves or others?  Yes  No

Provide a brief description of the student's behavior and physical status during seclusion:

Was seclusion the least intrusive intervention to effectively respond to the emergency?  Yes  No  
Explain why a less restrictive intervention failed or was determined by staff to be inappropriate or impractical:

Did seclusion end when the threat of harm ended and staff determined that the student could safely return to the classroom or activity?  Yes  No  
Explain:

Did staff directly observe the child during the seclusion?  Yes  No  
Explain:

Did staff sustain an injury as a result of the seclusion?  Yes  No  
Did the student sustain an injury as a result of the seclusion?  Yes  No

Time seclusion began: \_\_\_\_\_ Ended: \_\_\_\_\_ Total time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Removal From School

Was the student removed from school by a police officer at the request of school personnel?  Yes  No

### Parent Notification

Parents must be notified the same day a restrictive procedure is used. A written or electronic notice must be sent home within two (2) days if unable to notify on the same day.

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Notified by: \_\_\_\_\_

How notified: \_\_\_\_\_

## Goodhue County Education District #6051 Staff Debriefing Meeting

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Building:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Debrief:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Incident:** \_\_\_\_\_

Student on an IEP: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

BIP in Place: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Was IEP followed: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Was BIP followed: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If answered no, explain why:

Signatures of staff attending debrief (should include at least one person not involved in the incident who has knowledge of the behavior). Circle the Facilitator's signature:

Involved Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify the antecedents, triggers and proactive interventions used prior to escalation. Briefly describe the impact of the less restrictive interventions. What behavior did the student exhibit to require a restrictive procedure? Was the intervention used to protect the child/others from injury or to prevent serious property damage? Describe student and staff behavior during the intervention.

What actions helped/what did not help?

Describe the procedure used to return the child to his/her routine activity, education setting, intervention, and/or site determined by the team, BIP and/or administrator.

Was the hold/seclusion an emergency? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Was the hold/seclusion least intrusive? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Did the hold/seclusion end when the threat of harm ended? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Is corrective action needed? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Is the behavior likely to occur again? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Follow-up action (to prevent need for future restrictive procedures):

### Behavior History:

Other restrictive procedures used in the last 4 months? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Restrictive procedures used twice in a month? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Does the team see this as a pattern? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Does the child's IEP team need to meet? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Place a copy of these forms in the Child's Due Process File.**

**Send copies to the case manager, building administrator, and Goodhue County Education District Director.**

**Goodhue County Education District #6051  
Building Oversight Committee Members  
2024-2025**

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The Building Oversight Committee will meet quarterly to complete the Review Form (Appendix J) based on data provided in the Restrictive Procedures Form Physical Holding (Appendix E), Restrictive Procedures Form Seclusion Form (Appendix F), and the Staff Debriefing Meeting Form (Appendix G). The Committee will also complete the Annual Summary of Use of Restrictive Procedures form (Appendix K) and establish a plan for addressing Committee recommendations. The Building Oversight Committee may be called together at other times to address the inappropriate use of physical holding and/or seclusion and determine and recommend training needs. The Building Oversight Committee will also ensure IEP meetings are conducted in a timely manner.

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**River Bluff Education Center Oversight Committee Members**

Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director

Nicole Bolduan, Director of Special Education/Principal

Jenny Marquardt, Coordinator

Shelly Angell, Social Worker

Julie Braford, Teacher

Kailee Acosta, Paraprofessional

**Student Name:**

**Building:**

**Meeting Date:**

**Restrictive Procedures are documented in the IEP or attached B Yes No**

**Key: PCMA Holds:** 1T= 1 person transport, 2T= 2 person transport, 1VI= 1 person vertical immobilization, 2VI= 2 person vertical immobilization  
 3VI= 3 person vertical immobilization, 3SB= 3 person supine barr, 4SB= 4 person supine barr

Holds/Seclusion (check all that apply)													
Date	1T	2T	1VI	2VI	3VI	3SB	4SB					Seclusion	Total Duration of Holdings (H) or Seclusion (S)



**Summary of Restrictive Procedures Form Physical Holding**

Frequency of Use: Increase Decrease Same  
 Duration of Use: Increase Decrease Same  
 Were the positive interventions consistently used prior to use of a restrictive procedure? Yes No  
 Were parents notified the same day of the procedure or w/in 2 days (written or electronic)? Yes No Explain:  
 Was an IEP meeting scheduled? Yes No

**Summary of Restrictive Procedures Form Seclusion**

Frequency of Use: Increase Decrease Same  
 Duration of Use: Increase Decrease Same  
 Were the positive interventions consistently used prior to use of a restrictive procedure? Yes No  
 Were parents notified the same day of the procedure or w/in 2 days (written or electronic)? Yes No Explain:  
 Was an IEP meeting scheduled? Yes No

**Summary of Prone Restraint Form**

Frequency of Use: Increase Decrease Same  
 Duration of Use: Increase Decrease Same  
 Were the positive interventions consistently used prior to use of a restrictive procedure? Yes No  
 Were parents notified the same day of the procedure or w/in 2 days (written or electronic)? Yes No Explain:  
 Was an IEP meeting scheduled? Yes No

**Summary of Staff Debriefing Meeting forms:**

Yes No Specify  
 Is there a pattern of antecedents? Yes No Specify  
 Is there a pattern of behaviors? Yes No Specify  
 Is there a pattern of staff response? Yes No Specify  
 Is there a pattern of interventions that helped return this student to his/her routine activities? Yes No  
 Is there a pattern of interventions that escalated student behaviors? Yes No Explain:  
 Were procedures routinely discontinued when threat of harm ended? Yes No  
 Were procedures routinely used only in an emergency? Yes No



**Restrictive Procedures Oversight Committee Meeting Log**  
Members Present


Date:	Start:	Stop:
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Agenda: Review RP data collected. Identify frequency of RP by student, school, and type of procedure. Determine if any RP were used in a non-emergency situation, review injuries if they occur, and if any additional staff training is necessary. When multiple RP have been implemented with one student, patterns or problems will be explored concerning: time of day, day of the week, duration, individuals involved, or any other factor where similarities may be established. Trends in data will be reviewed and compared to historical data. Proposals will be made to minimize the use of RP in the district.

Review of Data	Discussion	Action
Injuries	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes	
Non-emergencies	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes	
Staff Training	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes	
Emerging Patterns		
Trends		
Proposals to Minimize RP		

## Goodhue County Education District #6051 Annual Summary of Use of Restrictive Procedures

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Staff Training:**

How many staff members received the required CPI training in your building? \_\_\_\_\_

Did any untrained staff participate in a restrictive procedure?      Yes      No      If yes, what was the rationale? \_\_\_\_\_

**Seclusionary Time Outs:**

How many seclusionary time outs were used during the school year? \_\_\_\_\_

Were any seclusionary time outs conducted in other than the specially designed time out room?      Yes  
No

Were seclusionary time outs used only in response to an "Emergency?"      Yes      No

If the answer is "no," explain why and the corrective action taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Seclusionary time out room(s) was/were inspected during the school year?      Yes      No

Any repair to the room(s) has/have been made?      Yes      No

If no, responsible parties have been contacted to ensure room(s) has/have been repaired?      Yes      No

*All room repairs must be made prior to the start of the next school year.*

**Physical Holding:**

How many physical holdings were used during the school year? \_\_\_\_\_

Were physical holdings used only in response to an "Emergency?" Yes      No

If the answer is "no," explain why and the corrective action taken: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prohibited Use:**

Did the debriefing teams find incorrect or prohibited use of a restrictive procedure?      Yes      No

If "yes," what corrective action was taken: \_\_\_\_\_

**Building Oversight Committee Recommendations for the Next Year (include training):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Leadership Agreement Draft Language Summary

- Dates updated to Agreement period 2024-26
- **Section 5 Duty Year**
  - Juneteenth Holiday was added. This increased legal holidays from ten to eleven.
- **Section 6 Sick Leave**
  - Updated with Earned Safe and Sick Leave language. These changes mirror what the Board approved in the Teacher Agreement.
- **Section 7 Personal Leave**
  - This mirrors what the Board approved in the Teacher Agreement. Previously unused personal leave days were paid out at \$300/day and \$150/half day. Draft language changes the pay out to at daily rate.
- **Section 19 Career Increment**
  - Clarify language on Career Increment. Add: Employee's Career Increment equals 0 in the first year they are hired under the Leadership Agreement. Years worked by employees who were hired by a member district in one of the positions included in this agreement and then are subsequently moved by Board action to the GCED Leadership Agreement will retain their years from the member district.
  - Recommend increasing as follows:
    - Beginning in the 5th year from \$500 to \$750
    - Beginning in the 6th year from \$1000 to \$1500
    - Beginning in the 10th year from \$2000 to \$3000
- **Salary Grid**
  - Eliminate Step 1 and add a new step at the end.
  - Increase salaries 4.5% in year one and 4.5% in year two.

**Total Package - 10.42%**

**GOODHUE COUNTY EDUCATION DISTRICT**  
**LEADERSHIP CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**  
**CONTRACT FOR ~~2024-2026~~~~2022-2024~~**

This Employment Agreement is made and entered into by and between the School Board of the Goodhue County Education District (hereinafter referred to as the "Education District") and Leadership Personnel (hereinafter referred to as "Employee").

**RECITALS:**

*WHEREAS*, the Education District now offers the position of Director, Director of Special Education, Principal, Assistant Director or Coordinator to Employee; and

*WHEREAS*, Employee agrees to accept and perform the duties of said position pursuant to the terms and subject to the conditions described below.

*NOW, THEREFORE*, in consideration for Employee's acceptance to serve in this capacity for the Education District, and other good and valuable consideration, the parties agree to the following terms and conditions of employment:

1. ***Effective Date; Duration; Termination.*** The term of this Agreement is two (2) years commencing on July 1, ~~2024~~~~2022~~ and ending on June 30, ~~2025~~~~2024~~. Thereafter, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect except if modified by mutual consent of the Education District and the Employee, unless Employee resigns or is terminated and/or discharged under Minn. Stat. §122A.40, as amended.
2. ***Licensure Required.*** Employee acknowledges that the position for which Employee is being employed requires a license issued by the State of Minnesota. Employee warrants and represents that Employee is legally qualified and licensed in the area(s) Employee will be working and that Employee has obtained, and will maintain during the course of employment under this Agreement, all license(s) required by the State of Minnesota. Employee acknowledges and agrees that a failure to obtain and/or maintain required state licenses may result in administrative and/or disciplinary action by the Education District, up to and including termination of employment.
3. ***Assignment; Identification of Supervisors.*** Employee shall be assigned to Goodhue County Education District #6051, Minnesota ("Red Wing") and shall provide support to the Education District's programs. Employees shall report to the Education District's Executive Director with respect to Education-related responsibilities.
4. ***Duties.*** Employee's duties include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Assume a lead role in developing, promoting, implementing and evaluating appropriate programs.
  - b. Organize, coordinate and schedule various activities.

- c. Provide supervision and due process consultation to building level administration and staff as allowed by licensure.
  - d. Facilitate on-going programs and supervise referrals, evaluations, and other due process procedures for special education services.
  - e. Supervise the scheduling of staff and assist with staff evaluations.
  - f. Promote and support staff development as needed.
  - g. Search for various financial, physical and human resources to enhance programming.
  - h. Supervise the development and maintenance of the annual budget and state reports.
  - i. Model positive behaviors and communicate effectively with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
  - j. Work with parents on an individual basis and in small groups to address issues or concerns of parents.
  - k. Maintain positive and professional relationships with county human service, child-care and other professionals and seek collaborative relationships to enhance services or learning for parents and young children.
  - l. Attend regional workshops as necessary or appropriate.
  - m. Submit an annual report to the Education District's Executive Director summarizing accomplishments and successes.
  - n. Employees are responsible to be knowledgeable about all Education District policies and procedures.
  - o. This job description is not intended to be all-inclusive, and Employee will also perform other reasonably related duties as assigned by an immediate supervisor and or other management authority.
5. ***Duty Year.*** Employee's duty year shall be as adopted by the Education District's Board, and Employee agrees to perform services on those legal holidays on which the Education District is authorized to conduct school. Employees shall be on duty during any emergency, natural or unnatural, unless otherwise excused in accordance with school board administrative policies. The duty year shall be outlined in the Salary Grid. The District recognizes the following **eleven** paid holidays: New Year's Eve Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, **Juneteenth**, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving Friday, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.
6. ***Sick Leave.***
- a. **Earning:** The annual allocation of Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) shall be based on MN Statute 181.9445, 181.9446, 181.9447, and 181.9448. The annual

allotment of time for sick leave shall include the required allocation of ESST. The allocation of ESST is not in addition to the allotment of sick leave. ~~Employees shall earn paid sick leave at the rate of 15 days per year, which may be accumulated to a maximum of 120 days.~~

- b. **Accumulation:** Employees shall earn paid sick leave at the rate of 15 days per year, which may be accumulated to a maximum of 120 days.
  - c. **Use:** Sick leave use is defined in MN Statute 181.9448.
  - d. **Medical Certificate:** The Education District may require an employee to furnish reasonable documentation that the earned sick and safe tie is covered by MN Statute 1881.9448. In the event that reasonable documentation will be required, the employee will be so advised.
  - e. **Deductions:** Sick leave allowed shall be deducted from the accrued sick leave days earned by the employee.
  - f. **Approval:** Sick leave pay shall be approved only upon following sick leave procedures in the Education District Staff Handbook.
7. ***Personal Leave.*** Employees may use up to four (4) paid personal leave days, non-accumulative, during each contract year. Employees who have unused Personal Leave at the end of the contracted year reserve the right to receive payment at ~~their daily rate for a full day or at one-half their daily rate for a one-half day~~ ~~the rate of \$300 per day/\$150 per half day~~ or have the option to roll up to 1 day into the next year's Personal Leave for a maximum of 5 personal days in any one year. This applies to full or half days of unused personal leave and is not meant to be prorated in hourly increments. Employees will submit the request by June 30<sup>th</sup> for each contract year.
8. ***Long Term Disability Insurance.*** The Education District shall provide, at the Education District's expense, long-term disability coverage for Employees in the Education District's group plan.
9. ***Medical Leave.*** If Employee is unable to perform regular duties because of personal illness or disability and has exhausted all sick leave credit available or has become eligible for long term disability compensation and has not been suspended or placed on leave of absence pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, subd. 12, Employee shall, upon request, be granted a medical leave of absence up to one year in duration without pay. The Education District's school board may, in its discretion, extend such a leave upon written request. A request for medical leave of absence or extension thereof pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a written statement from a physician outlining the condition of health and estimated time at which Employee is expected to be able to resume normal responsibilities. While on medical leave of absence, Employee is eligible to continue to participate in group insurance programs as permitted under the insurance policy provisions, but Employee shall pay the entire premium for such programs as Employee wishes to retain commencing with the beginning of the leave.



10. ***Bereavement Leave.*** Up to 5 days of leave shall be allowed for a death in the Employee's immediate family. No deductions will be made for the first 3 days; however, the next 2 days shall be deducted from accrued sick leave days. For bereavement leave, "immediate family" is defined as Employee and/or spouse and the following related to either: child and spouse, stepchild and spouse, ward, guardian, parent, stepparent, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren, uncle, aunt, nephew, and niece. Up to 2 sick leave days may be granted at the discretion of the Executive Director for illness, disability, or death of a close friend or other relative not specified above.
11. ***Health and Dental Insurance.*** The Education District shall provide Employees with health and dental insurance coverage, under the Education District's group plan, consistent with the rates and terms in the Master Agreement between Goodhue County Education District and Goodhue County Education District Federation of Educational Professionals.
12. ***Life Insurance.*** The Education District shall provide Employee, at the expense of the Education District, a group term life insurance plan with \$100,000.00 of coverage for Employee, payable to Employee's named beneficiary.
13. ***Tax Sheltered Annuities.*** Employees may participate in a tax sheltered annuity plan through payroll deduction established pursuant to Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, subd. 15, and Education District policy.
14. ***Deferred Compensation.*** The Education District will contribute a matching amount of up to \$6,500.00 per year for all Employees covered in this agreement to a deferred compensation plan in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 356.24, subd. 1 (5).
15. ***Mileage Reimbursement.*** The Education District shall reimburse Employee for business use of Employee's privately owned automobile at the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate. The obligation to reimburse mileage shall not extend to commutes from Employee's home to Employee's regular place of work.
16. ***Conferences and Meetings.*** The Education District shall pay all legally valid expenses and fees for Employee's attendance at professional conferences and meetings with other educational agencies when attendance thereof is required, directed, or permitted by the Education District's school board. Employee shall promptly advise Employee's immediate supervisor in advance of all meetings and conferences that Employee will be attending. Employees may attend one (1) national conference yearly if approved by the Executive Director. Employees shall file itemized expense statements to be processed and approved as provided by law.
17. ***Dues for Professional Organizations.*** The Education District shall pay such dues for Employee's membership in organizations in which the Education District requires Employee to be a member. In addition, the Education District shall pay the dues for Employee's membership in one (1) state and one (1) national organization of Employee's choice, as long as such organizations are directly related to Employee's duties under this Agreement.

18. **Salary.** The annual salary may be modified as hereinafter provided for, shall not be reduced except as herein required, during the term of this Agreement. The salary shall be paid annually in (24) equal installments during the term of this Agreement. Employee's Base Salary is set forth in the following Salary Grid.

2024-25								
Assignment	Days	Step 1	Step 2 Step 1	Step 3 Step 2	Step 4 Step 3	Step 5 Step 4	Step 6 Step 5	Step 2 Step 6
Director, Director of Special Education, Principal or combination of one or more	230	<del>\$118,309</del>	\$125,488	\$127,370	\$129,280	\$131,220	\$133,188	\$135,186
Assistant Director of Special Education, Principal or combination of the two	225	<del>\$106,222</del>	\$112,667	\$114,356	\$116,072	\$117,813	\$119,580	\$121,374
Coordinator	220	<del>\$87,073</del>	\$92,356	\$93,741	\$95,147	\$96,574	\$98,023	\$99,493
2025-2026								
Assignment	Days	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	
Director, Director of Special Education, Principal or combination of one or more	230	\$131,135	\$133,101	\$135,098	\$137,124	\$139,182	\$141,270	
Assistant Director of Special Education, Principal or combination of the two	225	\$117,737	\$119,502	\$121,296	\$123,115	\$124,962	\$126,836	
Coordinator	220	\$96,512	\$97,959	\$99,429	\$100,919	\$102,434	\$103,971	

19. **Career Increment.** Employee's Career Increment equals zero (0) in the first year they are hired under the Leadership Agreement. Years worked by employees who were hired by a member district in one of the positions included in this agreement and then are subsequently moved by Board action to the GCED Leadership Agreement will retain their years from the member district. Career ~~career~~ increment will be added to the above salaries as follows:

- Beginning of the 5th year     \$750.~~\$500.~~
- Beginning of the 6th year     \$1500.~~\$1000.~~
- Beginning of the 10th year    \$3000.~~\$2000.~~

20. **Board Approval of a Precondition.** This Agreement shall be effective only after it has been authorized by the school board of the Education District, following appropriate action by the school board, recorded in its minutes and executed by the parties hereto.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, the undersigned parties hereto have duly executed this Agreement as of the date indicated next to the name of the party who signs below.

**GOODHUE COUNTY EDUCATION DISTRICT**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022      By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer of Business Affairs



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING PREPARATION TIME AT RBEC**

**DURING THE**

**2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

**BETWEEN**

**GOODHUE COUNTY EDUCATION DISTRICT 6051**

**AND**

**EDUCATION MINNESOTA GOODHUE COUNTY EDUCATION DISTRICT LOCAL #4583**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the Goodhue County Education District 6051 and Education Minnesota Goodhue County Education District Local #4583. This MOU is effective when signed by both parties. This MOU expires on June 30, 2025.

The 2023-2024 - 2024-2025 agreement between the parties includes the following current language: **Article IX HOURS OF SERVICE, Section 4, Preparation Time:** Starting in the 2024-2025 contract year, within the student day for every 25 minutes of classroom instructional time, a minimum of five additional minutes of preparation time shall be provided to each licensed teacher. This time can be accumulated per week and used in larger blocks and/or can be provided in smaller blocks not to be reduced below 25 minutes. Compensation, if any, for loss of preparation time shall be determined by the Executive Director and Education District policy. Exceptions to this may be made by mutual agreement between the education district and the exclusive representative of the teachers.

**This MOU seeks to change the language to the following:**

**Article IX HOURS OF SERVICE, Section 4, Preparation Time:**

**Add the following language:**

Staff assigned to the River Bluff Education Center (currently REACH, STEP and Pathways) will continue with 50 minutes of preparation time.



## Educational Data Privacy Agreement

This Agreement is entered into by and between Goodhue County Ed. District ("the School District) and Goodhue County Health and Human Services ("Goodhue County".)

### PREAMBLE

The School District and Goodhue County have a common goal of increasing student achievement and well-being. It is the intent of Goodhue County to address a variety of student needs including, but not limited to, attendance, mentorship, social/emotional support, and after-school programming. The ultimate goal is to enhance student achievement and educational experience.

In order for Goodhue County to effectively serve students It will sometimes be necessary for the School District and Goodhue County to share private education data. Private educational data pertaining to students will not be released to Goodhue County without the informed written consent of a Parent or legal guardian, or in the case of a student 18 or over, the Informed written consent of the Student. Members of Goodhue County receiving, maintaining, managing and sharing private educational data are required to comply with the requirements of this Agreement and all applicable Minnesota and federal laws pertaining to the receipt, disclosure and maintenance of educational records/data including the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA".)

THEREFORE, the School District and Goodhue County agree to the following terms with respect to the receipt, disclosure and maintenance of private educational data:

#### 1. Definitions:

"Directory information" includes the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of birth, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors, and awards received, the most recent educational agency/institution attended, and the name, address, and telephone number of the student's parent(s). In circumstances where the student or their parents have not expressly requested that the information be released only after prior informed written consent.

"Legitimate educational interest" means an interest directly related to classroom instruction, teaching, student achievement and progress, discipline of a student, student health and welfare, and the ability to respond to a request for education data. It includes a person's need to know In order to: (1) perform an administrative task required In the school or employee's contract or position description approved by the school board; (2) perform a supervisory or instructional task directly related to the student's education; or (3) perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family such as health care, counseling, student job placement, or student financial aid.

## 2. Treatment and Use of Private Data

Goodhue County agrees that it is bound by the terms of their data record keeping and confidentiality policies with regard to any data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained or disseminated by Goodhue County. Information or data related to a student that is designated as "Directory Information" pursuant to School Board policy and which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed is not covered by this agreement.

Goodhue County may only provide private data received pursuant to this Agreement to employees or representatives of Goodhue County who have a legitimate educational interest in the private educational data. Unless authorized or obligated by applicable law or court order, Goodhue County agrees that it will not disclose private educational data provided by the School District pursuant to this agreement to another third party without informed written consent of the School District.

## 3. Confidentiality and Appropriate Safeguards

Goodhue County agrees it has established appropriate security safeguards for all private educational data received from the School District. Goodhue County will maintain the confidentiality of any and all private educational data received from the School District. The confidentiality requirements under this paragraph shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement or Organization. To ensure the continued confidentiality and security of private educational data received, processed, stored, or transmitted under this Agreement, Goodhue County shall establish a system of safeguards that will, at minimum, include the following:

- a. Procedures and systems that ensure that all private educational data are kept in secure facilities and access to such records is limited to personnel who are authorized to have access to said data under this Agreement.
- b. All designated representatives and employees of Goodhue County involved in the handling, transmittal and/or processing of private educational data provided under Agreement will be informed of their obligation to comply with the requirement of applicable law related to educational data privacy and the requirements of this Agreement.
- c. Procedures and systems, such as good practices for assigning passwords, shall be developed and implemented to maintain the integrity of the systems used to secure computer databases used to process, store, or transmit data provided under this Agreement. The parties agree that email is a secure way to transmit data under this Agreement.

Goodhue County may appropriately dispose of/destroy copies of government data provided to them by the School District. When private data is being disposed of/destroyed, the data must be disposed of/destroyed in a way that prevents its contents from being determined. Originals or official copies of any government data provided by the School District, which will be clearly



marked as such, can only be disposed of in a manner consistent with the School District's records retention policies.

If Goodhue County knows or has reason to believe that a security breach has occurred and an unauthorized person has gained access to private educational data that requires notification by law, Goodhue County must notify the School District of this concern. Furthermore, Goodhue County must take appropriate action to ensure that circumstances related to the breach of security are rectified and that the risk of further disclosure is eliminated or minimized.

#### 4. Indemnification

The School District and Goodhue County agree to defend, indemnify, and hold each other, and its officers, employees, and agents harmless from and against any liability, loss, expense (including attorneys' fees), or claims of injury or damages arising out of the performance of the terms of this Agreement but only in proportion to and to the extent such liability, loss, expense, attorneys' fees, or claims for injury or damages are caused by or result from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the indemnifying member, and/or its officers, employees or agents.

#### 5. Entire-Agreement

This document states the entire agreement between the educational institutions with respect to its subject matter and supersedes any previous and contemporaneous or oral representations, statements, negotiations, or agreements.

#### 6. Execution

Each of the persons signing this Agreement on behalf of a party or entity other than a natural person represents that he or she has authority to sign on behalf and to bind such party.

#### 7. Assignment

None of the signatories to this Agreement may assign their rights, duties, or obligations under this Agreement, either in whole or in part, without the prior informed written consent of the other signatories to this Agreement.

#### 8. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable under present or future laws effective during the term of this Agreement, such provision shall be fully severable. This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect unaffected by such severance, provided that the severed provision(s) are not material to the overall purpose and operation of this Agreement.

9. Term of this Agreement

This Agreement shall be in effect or the period commencing from the date of execution until June 30, 2025. Either the School District or Goodhue County may terminate its participation in this Agreement by delivering written notice of Its intent to terminate said participation to the chief executive officer of the other entity.

Signed By:

\_\_\_\_\_

Officer of Business Affairs  
Goodhue County Education District

\_\_\_\_\_

Goodhue County Representative

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Date



Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 512

Orig. 1995

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2024

## **512 SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to protect students' rights to free speech in production of official school publications and activities while at the same time balancing the school district's role in supervising student publications and the operation of public schools.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

**[NOTE: A school district generally will wish to reserve a forum it sponsors for its intended purpose in light of the special characteristics of the school environment. By doing so, the school district will have more authority/editorial control over student expression in such a forum. Sponsorship alone may not be enough, however. If the exercise of control is challenged, courts will examine factors such as whether the school district's purpose in creating the forum was educational, whether school officials supervised the publication or activity and exercised editorial control over the contents, whether the materials were produced as part of the curriculum, and whether students received grades and academic credit for the publication or activity. If a forum is reserved, regulation of student expression as in Section IV.B. of this policy will be permissible. If a forum is not reserved, but rather is opened for public communication by tradition or designation, then only the limited regulation of speech as described in Section IV.A. of this policy will be permissible.]**

- A. The school district may exercise editorial control over the style and content of student expression in school-sponsored publications and activities.
- B. Expressions and representations made by students in school-sponsored publications and activities are not expressions of official school district policy. Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to ensure compliance with the law and school district policies.
- C. Students who believe their right to free expression has been unreasonably restricted in an official student publication or activity may seek review of the decision by the building principal. The principal shall issue a decision no later than three (3) school days after review is requested.
  - 1. Students producing official school publications and activities shall be under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the school principal. Official publications and activities shall be subject to the guidelines set forth below.
  - 2. Official school publications may be distributed at reasonable times and locations.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Distribution" means circulation or dissemination of material by means of handing out free copies, selling or offering copies for sale, accepting donations for copies, posting, or displaying material, or placing materials in internal staff or student mailboxes.

~~B. "Libelous" is a false and unprivileged statement about a specific individual that tends to harm the individual's reputation or to lower that individual in the esteem of the~~

~~community-~~

B. "Material and substantial disruption" of a normal school activity means:

1. Where the normal school activity is an educational program of the school district for which student attendance is compulsory, "material and substantial disruption" is defined as any disruption which interferes with or impedes the implementation of that program.
2. Where the normal school activity is voluntary in nature (including, without limitation, school athletic events, school plays and concerts, and lunch periods) "material and substantial disruption" is defined as student rioting, unlawful seizures of property, conduct inappropriate to the event, participation in a school boycott, demonstration, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out, or other related forms of activity.

In order for expression to be considered disruptive, there must exist specific facts upon which the likelihood of disruption can be forecast, including past experience in the school, current events influencing student activities and behavior, and instances of actual or threatened disruption relating to the written material in question.

C. "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen (18).

D. "Obscene to minors" means:

1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors of the age to whom distribution is requested;
2. The material depicts or describes, in a manner that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning how such conduct should be presented to minors of the age to whom distribution is requested, sexual conduct such as intimate sexual acts (normal or perverted), masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
3. The material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

~~E. "Official school publications" means school newspapers, yearbooks, or material produced in communications, journalism, or other writing classes as a part of the curriculum.~~

E. "School activities" means any activity of students sponsored by the school including, but not limited to, classroom work, library activities, physical education classes, official assemblies and other similar gatherings, school athletic contests, band concerts, school plays and other theatrical productions, and in-school lunch periods.

~~F. "School-sponsored media" means material that is:~~

- ~~1. prepared, wholly or substantially written, published, broadcast, or otherwise disseminated by a student journalist enrolled in the school district;~~
- ~~2. distributed or generally made available to students in the school; and~~
- ~~3. prepared by a student journalist under the supervision of a student media adviser.~~

School-sponsored media does not include material prepared solely for distribution or transmission in the classroom in which the material is produced, or a yearbook.

G. "Student journalist" means a school district student in grades 6 through 12 who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or otherwise prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.

H. "Student media adviser" means a qualified teacher, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.16, that the school district employs, appoints, or designates to supervise student journalists or provide instruction relating to school-sponsored media.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted the new definitions above and the new language in Article IV, below.]**

#### **IV. GUIDELINES**

A. Except as provided in paragraph B below, a student journalist has the right to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media regardless of whether the school-sponsored media receives financial support from the school or district, uses school equipment or facilities in its production, or is produced as part of a class or course in which the student journalist is enrolled. Freedom of speech includes freedom to express political viewpoints. Consistent with paragraph B below, a student journalist has the right to determine the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media. The school district must not discipline a student journalist for exercising rights or freedoms under this paragraph or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

B. Student expression in ~~an official school publication~~ school-sponsored media, a yearbook, or school-sponsored activity is prohibited when the material:

1. is obscene to minors;
2. ~~is libelous or slanderous;~~
2. is defamatory;
3. is profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating;
4. constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
5. violates federal or state law;
6. causes a material and substantial disruption of school activities;
7. is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action on school premises or the violation of lawful school policies or rules, including a policy adopted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03 or 121A.031;
8. advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted for minors by law;
4. ~~encourages students to commit illegal acts or violate school regulations or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of school or school activities;~~
9. expresses or advocates sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence or prejudice; or
10. is distributed or displayed in violation of time, place, and manner regulations.

C. The school district must not retaliate or take adverse employment action against a student media adviser for supporting a student journalist exercising rights or freedoms under paragraph A above or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

D. Notwithstanding the rights or freedoms of this Article or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, nothing in this Article inhibits a student media adviser from teaching professional standards of English and journalism to student journalists.

~~Expression in an official school publication or school sponsored activity is subject to editorial control by the school district over the style and content so long as the school district's actions are reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns.~~ These professional standards may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. assuring that participants learn whatever lessons the activity is designed to teach;
2. assuring that readers or listeners are not exposed to material that may be inappropriate for their level of maturity;
3. assuring that the views of the individual speaker are not erroneously attributed to the school;
4. assuring that the school is not associated with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy;
5. assuring that the sponsored student speech cannot reasonably be perceived to advocate conduct otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order;
6. assuring that the school is not associated with expression that is, for example, ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences.

E. Time, Place, and Manner of Distribution

Students shall be permitted to distribute written materials at school as follows:

1. Time

Distribution shall be limited to the hours before the school day begins, during lunch hour and after school is dismissed.

2. Place

Written materials may be distributed in locations so as not to interfere with the normal flow of traffic within the school hallways, walkways, entry ways, and parking lots. Distribution shall not impede entrance to or exit from school premises in any way.

3. Manner

No one shall induce or coerce a student or staff member to accept a student publication.

## **V. POSTING**

The school district must adopt a student journalist policy consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.80 and post it on the district website.

**[NOTE: This model policy is crafted to fulfill the obligation stated above.]**

**Legal References:** U. S. Const., amend. I  
*Morse v. Frederick*, 551 U.S. 393 (2007)  
*Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)  
*Bystrom v. Fridley High School, I.S.D. No. 14*, 822 F. 2d 747 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1987)  
[Minn. Stat. § 121A.03 \(Model Policy\)](#)  
[Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 \(School Student Bullying Policy\)](#)  
[Minn. Stat. § 121A.80 \(Student Journalism; Student Expression\)](#)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 904 (Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons)



Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 619

Orig. 1998

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2024

## **619 STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR STANDARDS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish opportunities for staff development which advance the staff's ability to work effectively with the Graduation Assessment Requirements and with students as they progress to achievement of those Graduation Assessment Requirements and meet the requirements of federal law.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school district is committed to developing staff policies and processes for continuous improvement of curriculum, instruction, and assessment to ensure effective implementation of the Graduation Assessment Requirements and federal law at all levels.

### **III. STANDARDS FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

- A. The Advisory Committee for Comprehensive Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement (Committee) shall address the needs of all staff in prioritizing staff development which will ensure effective implementation of the Graduation Assessment Requirements and federal law at all levels. The Committee will advise the school board on the planning of staff development opportunities.
- B. The school district shall place a high priority on staff development including activities, programs, and other efforts to implement the Graduation Assessment Requirements effectively and to upgrade that implementation continuously.
- C. Staff development plans for the school district shall address identified needs for Graduation Assessment Requirements implementation throughout all levels of the school district programs.
- D. In service, staff meeting, and district and building level staff development plans and programs shall focus on improving implementation of the Graduation Assessment Requirements at all levels for all students, including those with special needs.

### **IV. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **A. Paraprofessionals**

The school district will provide each paraprofessional who assists a licensed teacher in providing student instruction with initial training. Such training will include training in emergency procedures, confidentiality, vulnerability, reporting obligations, discipline, policies, roles, and responsibilities, and building orientation. Training will be provided within the first 60 days a paraprofessional begins supervising or working with students.

Additionally, with regard to paraprofessionals providing support to special education students, the school district will ensure that annual training opportunities are required to enable the paraprofessional to further develop the knowledge and skills that are specific to the students with whom the paraprofessional works, including understanding disabilities, the unique and individual needs of each student according to the student's disability and how the disability affects the student's education and behavior, following lesson plans, and implementing follow-up instructional procedures and activities.

B. Teachers and Administrators

The school district will provide high quality and ongoing professional development activities as required by state and federal laws.

**Legal References:** 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 Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness~~the World’s Best Workforce~~)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.363 (Credential for Education Paraprofessionals)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.16 (Qualified Teacher Defined)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.60 (Staff Development Program)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.06~~6040-3501.0655~~ (Academic Standards for Language Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)  
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 616 (School District System Accountability)

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 606.5

Orig. 2023

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2024

## **606.5 LIBRARY MATERIALS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and to delegate responsibility for selection and reconsideration of library materials.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The school board recognizes that library materials serve as a vital component of a student's education by enriching the breadth of the curriculum as a whole and meeting the needs and interests of individual students. The purpose of library materials is to meet the needs of all students. Therefore, questions regarding selection and reconsideration of library materials should be handled differently than those concerning textbooks and instructional materials.

To ensure that library materials fulfill this role, the school board delegates to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee responsibility for administering a process for selection of library materials. Responsibility for selection shall rest with professionally trained school district staff, with recognition that the school board has the final authority on selection of library materials. Parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's access to library materials.

**[NOTE: The school board may choose to revise the General Statement of Purpose.]**

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

A. "Library" is the school district resource that holds the library collection that serves the information and independent reading needs of students and supports the curriculum needs of teachers and staff. The term "library" includes a school library media center. The term also includes access to electronic materials.

For school districts with multiple school buildings, the term "library" refers to the resource within a specific school building.

Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.901, states that a school district or charter school library or school library media center provides equitable and free access to students, teachers, and administrators and that a school library or school library media center must have the following characteristics:

1. ensures every student has equitable access to resources and is able to locate, access, and use resources that are organized and cataloged;
2. has a collection development plan that includes but is not limited to materials selection and deselection, a challenged materials procedure, and an intellectual and academic freedom statement;
3. is housed in a central location that provides an environment for expanded learning and supports a variety of student interests;
4. has technology and Internet access; and
5. is served by a licensed school library media specialist or licensed school librarian.

**[NOTE: The school board may add a sentence that incorporates the term(s) used to identify libraries in the school district, such as "The school district's libraries are commonly referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.]**

- B. "Library collection" consists of the library materials made available to students.
- C. "Library materials" are the books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, prints, documents, videotapes, subscription content, electronic and digital materials (including e-books, audiobooks, and databases), and related items made available to students in a school building or through access to electronic materials. This term does not include materials made available to students as part of the curriculum.
- D. "Library media specialist" is a teacher holding a Library Media Specialist teaching license issued by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Boards and who is trained to deliver library services to students and staff in a library. A library media specialist is authorized under Minnesota Rules to provide to students in kindergarten through grade 12 instruction that is designed to provide information and technology literacy skills instruction, to lead, collaborate, and consult with other classroom teachers for the purpose of integrating information and technology literacy skills with content teaching, and to administer media center operations, programming, and resources.

**[NOTE: The specific titles of the school district's library staff should be used for this definition and substituted for "library media specialist" throughout this model policy. Please note the new 2024 law in Article IV regarding administration of selection and reconsideration procedures.]**

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

- A. The school board recognizes the expertise of the school district's professional staff and the vital need of such staff to be responsible for selection of library materials.
- B. While recommendations by administrators, faculty members, students, parents, and other community members may be considered, the final responsibility for selection of library materials shall rest with the library media specialist.
- C. The procedures for selection and reconsideration set forth in this policy will be administered by:
  - 1. a licensed library media specialist under Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4550;
  - 2. an individual with a master's degree in library science or library and information science; or
  - 3. a professional librarian or a person trained in library collection management.
- D. The school board may decline to purchase, lend, or shelve or remove access to library materials legitimately based on:
  - 1. practical reasons, including but not limited to shelf space limitations, rare or antiquarian status, damage, or obsolescence;
  - 2. legitimate pedagogical concerns, including but not limited to the appropriateness of potentially sensitive topics for the library's intended audience, the selection of library materials for a curated collection, or the likelihood of causing a material and substantial disruption of the work and

discipline of the school; or

3. compliance with state or federal law.

**[NOTE: In 2024, the Minnesota legislature enacted a new law—Minnesota Statutes 134.51--that includes the new provisions above.]**

#### **IV. SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

- A. Selection Criteria: The library materials selection process should result in a library collection that, when considered as a whole, is consistent with the following criteria:
1. Library materials shall support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the state and the district and the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses;
  2. Library materials shall be chosen to enrich and support the curriculum as well as to promote reading for pleasure by responding to the personal needs and interests of student users;
  3. Library materials shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, religion, sex, gender, or political views of the writer;
  4. Library materials shall be appropriate to and reflect the needs, ages, maturity level, emotional development, ability levels, learning styles, social development, background, diversity, and needs and interests of the students for whom the materials were selected;
  5. Library materials shall meet high standards of quality in one or more of these categories (presented alphabetically):
    - a. Artistic quality and/or literary style;
    - b. Authenticity;
    - c. Critical thinking;
    - d. Educational significance;
    - e. Factual content;
    - f. High interest for intended audience; and
    - g. Readability.
  6. The selection of library materials shall conform to the constraints of the school district budget.

**[NOTE: Before adopting selection criteria, the school board is strongly encouraged to consult with the licensed library media specialist, who possesses professional expertise and experience in selecting appropriate library materials. The school board may choose to adopt selection criteria specifically designed for each school building.]**

**[NOTE: A school board may choose to adopt similar selection criteria for**

**classroom library materials, with the classroom teacher making selection decisions. If a school board chooses to address classroom libraries, the board can decide whether to follow the reconsideration process in this model policy or to create a different process for classroom library materials.]**

- B. The library media specialist shall consult sources and specialists experienced in library materials collections appropriate for the building's students and that are reputable, experienced, unbiased, and professionally trained in school library materials.

**[NOTE: The school board may choose to identify specific sources and specialists that satisfy this paragraph.]**

- C. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of progress on review and selection of each building's library materials.
- D. Library materials that are outdated, inaccurate, no longer useful for curricular support or reading enrichment, or have not been utilized for an extended period of time may be removed. Library materials that are in poor physical condition may be removed or replaced as determined by the library media specialist or the principal.
- E. Gifts and Donations of Library Materials

Materials offered for donation or gifted to a school library may be accepted if they comply with the library collection selection criteria and approved by the library media specialist. The school district's libraries welcome donations of books and other resource materials from individuals and organizations, but also reserve the right to decline to accept library materials that do not meet the criteria for selection. In addition, financial donations to benefit school district's libraries will be accepted with the understanding that funds will be used to purchase materials that are needed for libraries based on the needs of the individual schools.

## **VI. INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ACCESS TO SPECIFIC LIBRARY MATERIAL**

A parent or guardian may request that access to specific material in the library materials collection be restricted from their student. The school shall take reasonable steps to fulfill this request. This type of request will not result in removal of specific library collection material from the library or restrictions upon any other student accessing specific library materials.

## **VII. RECONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC LIBRARY MATERIAL**

- A. The school board seeks to uphold students' access to library materials that meet the educational goals and selection criteria set forth in this policy.
- B. A school district employee, student, or a parent or guardian of a school district student may request reconsideration of specific library material on the basis of appropriateness. Access to the material in question shall not be restricted until the procedures listed below have been fully completed and a decision to remove or restrict the materials has been made.

**[NOTE: The school board may decide whether to allow a building principal to remove library materials pending completion of the reconsideration process.]**

- C. Informal Request for Reconsideration of Specific Library Material

1. Requests for reconsideration of specific library material shall be directed to the library media specialist and the building principal. The building principal and the library media specialist shall assume responsibility for processing the request on an informal basis.
2. The building principal and/or the library media specialist shall provide an explanation to the individual who submitted the request. The explanation shall include the particular selection criteria that the material in question met in order to be included in the library as curriculum support or as an independent reading choice for students in the building.
3. If the request is not resolved informally, the principal shall submit a report on the matter to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. The requestor will have an option to initiate a Formal Request for Reconsideration.

D. Formal Request for Reconsideration of Specific Library Collection Material

1. A Formal Request for Reconsideration of specific library material is initiated upon submission of a completed *Formal Request for Reconsideration of Specific Library Collection Material* form. The form must be completed in its entirety for each work that is subject to a request for reconsideration. The principal shall notify the superintendent or the superintendent's designee and the library media specialist of receipt of a completed Formal Request form.

If specific library material is the subject of a Formal Request for Reconsideration and a final decision is made to retain the specific library material, then the specific library material shall not be subject to additional requests for reconsideration for three years following the date of final resolution of the initial Formal Request for Reconsideration.

2. On an annual basis, the Superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall appoint a Library Materials Review Committee (Review Committee). This committee shall include:
  - a. One member of the school district administration
  - b. One principal
  - c. Two teachers
  - d. One library media specialist (or district media specialist or public librarian if the school district does not have a library media specialist)
  - e. Two members of the school district community with no direct connection with the request for reconsideration
  - f. Two student representatives (as appropriate to the specific request).

**[NOTE: This list of Review Committee members is an example. The school board may alter this list. The school district may decide to create Review Committees for individual schools.]**

3. The Review Committee shall establish a date upon which it will discuss the request and whether the specific library collection material conforms to the selection criteria set forth in this policy.

4. The Review Committee
  - a. may consult individuals, organizations, and other resources with relevant professional knowledge on school library material;
  - b. shall examine the specific library material as a whole;
  - c. shall examine the specific library material as to its conformance with the criteria for selection of library materials; and
  - d. shall submit a written report to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee containing the Review Committee's decision on whether to retain, to remove, or to take other action regarding the specific library material.
  
5. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall inform the requestor and the school board of the Review Committee's decision. The requestor may appeal the Review Committee's decision to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee by submitting a written appeal to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee within fourteen (14) days of submission of the Review Committee's decision to the requestor. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall provide a written decision on a requestor's appeal within a reasonable time period.

**[NOTE: The school board can decide whether to allow appeal of a Review Committee decision to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. If appeal to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee is permitted, the school board may direct the superintendent or the superintendent's designee to craft an appeal process or the board may choose to create the process itself.]**

6. The requestor shall have the right to appeal the decision of the superintendent or the superintendent's designee to the school board.

**[NOTE: The school board may decide whether to allow an appeal of a Review Committee decision directly to the school board or whether the appeal to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee is a required intermediary step. If appeal to the school board is permitted, the school board may direct the superintendent or the superintendent's designee or designee to craft an appeal process or the board may choose to create the process itself.]**

#### **VIII. CHALLENGE REPORT**

Upon the completion of a content challenge or reconsideration process in accordance with this policy, the school board must submit a report of the challenge to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education that includes:

- A. the title, author, and other relevant identifying information about the material being challenged;
- B. the date, time, and location of any public hearing held on the challenge in question, including minutes or transcripts;



C. the result of the challenge or reconsideration request; and

D. accurate and timely information on who from the school district the Department of Education may contact with questions or follow-up.

**[NOTE: This article was enacted in 2024 by the Minnesota legislature.]**

## **IX. PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION**

The school district may not discriminate against or discipline an employee for complying with Minnesota Statutes, section 134.51.

**[NOTE: This article was enacted in 2024 by the Minnesota legislature.]**

- Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 9 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (School Board Responsibilities)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.991 (Public School Libraries and Media Centers)  
Minn. Stat. § 134.51 (Access to Library Materials and Rights Protected)  
Minn. Rules Part 8710.4550 (Library Media Specialists)  
*Bd. of Educ., Island Trees Union Free Sch. Dist. No. 26 v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982)  
*Virginia State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624, 642 (1943)
- Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 606 (Textbooks and Instructional Materials)



## Policy Updates

The following updates quote directly from new Minnesota laws and other legal sources or are clerical updates that do not affect the substance of a policy. As such, the board can choose to adopt updates in a single meeting pursuant to the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) Policy 208.

<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>Update</b>
102	Adds legislative change to “discrimination” definition
104	Removes WBWF from statutory reference
204	Adds NOTE on new, temporary law for districts without local newspaper
207	Removes address requirement
413	Updates “familial status” definition
416	Adds “oral fluid testing”
418	Adds protection for persons in MN Patient Registry Program
419	Adds smudging as a permissible activity
425	Adds paraprofessional training provisions
503	Updates excused absences; Adds note on unexcused absences
506	Adds unscheduled student removal provision
507	Adds reasonable force language; corrects Legal Reference
509	Removes School Readiness Plus; Adds School of Parents’ Choice law
513	Removes WBWF
515	Adds explanatory note for directory information
516	Adds new statutory provisions; rearranges sections for clarity
521	Updates statutory definition of “disability”
524	New title; adds cell phone provision
532	Adds school resource officer language
535	Adds protections for persons with disabilities
601	Removes WBWF

602	Updates Note to align with revised Minnesota law
603	Removes WBWF
604	Adds pending change to health standards
607	Adds a Note on voluntary prekindergarten programs
608	Adds “child with a disability” provisions
609	Adds cultural observance provision
613	Updates graduation requirements; updates references
614	Adds retaliation prohibition
615	Updates references
616	Removes WBWF
620	Adds weighted grades provision; PSEO dates
624	Adds tuition and fee provision
707	Add and fix citations
708	Changes “shall” to “must”
709	Adds electric bicycle provision
802	Adds MS 471.85 to Legal References
806	Adds note re: permissive cardiac emergency response plan

## **102 EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

***[Note: Education districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that equal educational opportunity is provided for all students of the education district.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the education district is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students. The education district does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or age. The education district also makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities.
- B. The education district prohibits harassment and discrimination of any individual based on any of the protected classifications listed above. For information about the types of conduct that constitute violation of the education district's policy on harassment and violence and the education district's procedures for addressing such complaints, refer to the education district's policy on harassment and violence (Policy 413).
- C. The education district prohibits discrimination of students with a disability, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), who need services, accommodations, or programs in order to receive a free appropriate public education. For information as to protections that may apply pursuant to Section 504 and the school district's corresponding procedures for addressing disability discrimination complaints, refer to the education district's policy on student disability nondiscrimination (Policy 521).
- D. The education district prohibits sexual harassment discrimination of any individual on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities. For information as to the protections that apply pursuant to Title IX and education district's corresponding procedures and processes for addressing sexual harassment and discrimination, refer to the education district's policy on Title IX sex nondiscrimination (Policy 522).
- E. The education district shall provide equal opportunity for members of each sex and to members of all races and ethnicities to participate in its athletic program. In determining whether equal opportunity to participate in athletic programs is available for the purposes of this law, at least the following factors shall be considered to the extent that they are applicable to a given situation: whether the opportunity for males and females to participate in the athletic program reflects the demonstrated interest in athletics of the males and females in the student body of the educational institution; whether the opportunity for members of all races and ethnicities to participate in the athletic program reflects the demonstrated interest in athletics of members of all races and ethnicities in the student body of the educational institution; whether the variety and selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the demonstrated interests of members of each sex; whether the variety and selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the demonstrated interests of members of all races and ethnicities; the provision of equipment and supplies; scheduling of games and practice times; assignment of coaches; provision of locker rooms; practice and competitive facilities; and the provision of necessary funds for

teams of one sex.

- EF. ~~Student athletics occur in the resident district per statute.~~ This policy applies to all areas of education including academics, coursework, co-curricular and extra curricular activities, or other rights or privileges of enrollment
- F G. Every education district employee shall be responsible for complying with this policy.
- G H. Any student, parent, or guardian having a question regarding this policy should discuss it with the appropriate education district official as provided by policy. In the absence of a specific designee, an inquiry or a complaint should be referred to the executive director.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.04 (Athletic Programs; Sex Discrimination)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process)

Adopted: 7/25/24

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104  
Orig. 1997  
Rev. 2024~~2~~

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

## **104 SCHOOL- EDUCATION DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear statement of the purpose for which the ~~school-~~ **education** district exists.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The ~~school-~~ **education district** board believes that a mission statement should be adopted. The mission statement should be based on the beliefs and values of the community, should direct any change effort and should be the basis on which decisions are made. The ~~school-~~ **education district** board, on behalf of and with extensive participation by the community, should develop a consensus among its members regarding the nature of the enterprise the ~~school-~~ **education district** board governs, the purposes it serves, the constituencies it should consider, including student representation, and the results it intends to produce.

### **III. MISSION STATEMENT**

As a district, we are committed to the success of all students by ensuring access to high-quality instruction responsive to their needs and delivered by effective and culturally responsive educators.

### **IV. REVIEW**

The ~~school-~~ **education district** board will review the ~~school-~~ **education district's** mission every two years, especially when members of the board change. The ~~school-~~ **education district** board will conduct a comprehensive review of the mission, including the beliefs and values of the community, every five to seven years.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement **Goals**; Striving for **Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness** ~~the World's Best Workforce~~)

**Cross References:** None

## **204 EDUCATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*[Note: The provisions of this policy are required by statute.]*

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures relating to the maintenance of records of the education district board and the publication of its official proceedings.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It is the policy of the education district to maintain its records so that they will be available for inspection by members of the general public and to provide for the publication of its official proceedings in compliance with law.

### **III. MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND RECORDS**

A. The clerk shall keep and maintain permanent records of the education district board, including records of the minutes of education district board meetings and other required records of the education district board. All votes taken at meetings required to be open to the public pursuant to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law shall be recorded in a manner that preserves them. Public records maintained by the education district shall be available for inspection by members of the public during the regular business hours of the education district. Minutes of meetings shall be available for inspection at the administrative offices of the education district after they have been prepared. Minutes of an education district board meeting shall be approved or modified by the education district board at a subsequent meeting, which action shall be reflected in the official proceedings of that subsequent meeting.

#### **B. Recordings of Closed Meetings**

1. All closed meetings, except those closed as permitted by the attorney-client privilege, must be electronically recorded at the expense of the education district. Recordings of closed meetings shall be made separately from the recordings of an open meeting, to the extent such meetings are recorded. If a meeting is closed to discuss more than one (1) matter, each matter shall be separately recorded.
2. Recordings of closed meetings shall be preserved by the education district for the following time periods:



- a. Meetings closed to discuss labor negotiations strategy shall be preserved for two (2) years after the contract is signed.
  - b. Meetings closed to discuss security matters shall be preserved for at least four (4) years.
  - c. Meetings closed to discuss the purchase or sale of property shall be preserved for at least eight (8) years after the date of the meeting.
  - d. All other closed meetings shall be preserved by the education district for at least three (3) years after the date of the meeting.
  - e. Following the expiration of the above time periods, recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained as set forth in the education district's Records Retention Schedule.
3. Recordings of closed meetings shall be classified by the education district as protected non-public data that is not accessible by the public or any subject of the data, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Recordings of labor negotiations strategy meetings shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all labor contracts are signed by the education district for the current budget period.
  - b. Recordings of meetings related to the purchase or sale of property shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all real or personal property discussed at the meeting has been purchased or sold or the education district has abandoned the purchase or sale.
  - c. Recordings of any other closed meetings shall be classified and/or released as required by court order.
4. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained separately from recordings of open meetings, to the extent recordings of open meetings are maintained by the education district, with the exception of recordings that have been classified as public data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above. Recordings of closed meetings classified as non-public data also shall be maintained in a secure location, separate from recordings classified as public data.
5. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained in a manner to easily identify the data classification of the recording. The recordings shall be identified with at least the following information:

- a. The date of the closed meeting;
  - b. The basis upon which the meeting was closed (i.e.: labor negotiations strategy, purchase or sale of real property, educational data, etc.); and
  - c. The classification of the data.
6. Recordings of closed meetings related to labor negotiations strategy and the purchase or sale of property shall be maintained and monitored in a manner that reclassifies the recording as public upon the occurrence of an event reclassifying that data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above.

#### IV. PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

- A. The education district board shall cause its official proceedings to be published on the website of the education district within thirty (30) days of the meeting at which the proceedings occurred; however, if the education district board conducts regular meetings not more than once every thirty (30) days, the education district board need not publish the minutes until ten (10) days after they have been approved by the education district board.

**[NOTE: In 2024, the Minnesota legislature enacted two laws regarding publication of school board minutes. Under Chapter 109 (2024), five school districts are authorized to publish their minutes on their websites; this section expires on August 1, 2026.**

**Under Chapter 115 (2024), the Minnesota legislature enacted the following:**

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, when a qualified newspaper designated by a school district ceases to exist for any reason except consolidation with another newspaper, the school district may publish its proceedings on the school district's website instead of publishing the proceedings in a newspaper. The school district must also request that the same information be posted at each public library located within the school district for the notice's publication period. This section expires August 1, 2026.

(b) If, before August 1, 2026, there is a newspaper located within a school district's boundaries that is qualified to be designated as the school district's official newspaper pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 331A.04, then the exemption provided in this section shall not apply, provided that the qualified newspaper's legal rate is not more than ten percent above the rate charged by the school district's previous official newspaper and the qualified newspaper provides some coverage of the activities of the school district that is publishing the notice.

**[NOTE: MSBA has not inserted paragraph (a) into this model policy because its application is limited to specific circumstances and for a defined period. School districts that meet the conditions in paragraph (a) may choose to publish on the school district's website.]**

- B. The proceedings to be published shall be sufficiently full to fairly set forth the proceedings. They must include the substance of all official actions taken by the education district board at any regular or special meeting, and at minimum must include the subject matter of a motion, the persons making and seconding the motion, a listing of how each member present voted on the motion, the character of resolutions offered including a brief description of their subject matter and whether adopted or defeated. The minutes and permanent records of the education district board may include more detail than is required to be published with the official proceedings. If the proceedings have not yet been approved by the education district board, the proceedings to be published may reflect that fact.
- C. The proceedings to be published may be a summary of the essential elements of the proceedings, and/or of resolutions and other official actions of the education district board. Such a summary shall be written in a clear and coherent manner and shall, to the extent possible, avoid the use of technical or legal terms not generally familiar to the public. When a summary is published, the publication shall clearly indicate that the published material is only a summary and that the full text is available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the education district and that a copy of the proceedings, other than attachments to the minutes, is available without cost at the offices of the education district or by means of standard or electronic mail.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, Subds. 4-6 (~~Open Meeting Law~~) Meetings Must be Open to the Public; Exceptions)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 10 (Publishing Proceedings)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.14, Subd. 7 (Record of Meetings)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.01 (Definition)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.05, Subd. 8 (Notice Regarding Published Summaries)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.08, Subd. 3 (Publication of Proceedings)

Op. Atty. Gen. 161-a-20, December 17, 1970

*Ketterer v. Independent School District No. 1*, 248 Minn. 212, 79 N.W.2d 428 (1956)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 205 (Open Meetings and Closed Meetings)

## **207 PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The education district board recognizes the importance of obtaining public input on matters properly before the education district board during a public hearing. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to efficiently receive public input.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

For the education district board to efficiently receive public input on matters properly before the education district board, the education district board establishes the procedures set forth in this policy are established.

### **III. PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Public Hearings**

Public hearings are required by law concerning certain issues, including but not limited to, school closings (Minn. Stat. § 123B.51), education district establishment (Minn. Stat. § 123A.15), and agreements for secondary education (Minn. Stat. § 123A.30). Additionally, other public hearings may be held by the education district board on education district matters at the education district board's discretion

#### **B. Notice of Public Hearings**

Public notice of a public hearing required by law shall be given as provided by the enabling legislation. Public notice of other hearings shall be given in the manner required for a regular meeting if held in conjunction with a regular meeting, in the manner required for a special meeting if held in conjunction with a special meeting, or as otherwise determined by the education district board.

#### **C. Public Participation**

The education district board retains the right to require that those in attendance at a public hearing indicate their desire to address the education district board and complete and file with the clerk of the education district board an appropriate request card prior to commencement of the hearing if the education district board utilizes this procedure. In that case, any request to address the education district board after the commencement of the hearing will be granted only at the

education district board's discretion.

1. Format of Request: If required by the education district board, a written request of an individual or a group to address the education district board shall contain the name ~~and address~~ of the person or group seeking to address the education district board. It shall also contain the name of the group represented, if any, and a brief statement of the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed.
2. Time Limitation: The education district board retains the discretion to limit the time for each presentation as needs dictate.
3. Groups: The education district board retains the discretion to require that any group of persons who desire to address the education district board designate one representative or spokesperson. If the education district board requires designation of a representative or spokesperson, no other person in the group will be recognized to address the education district board, except as the education district board otherwise determines.
4. Privilege to Speak: An education district board member should direct remarks or questions through the chair. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the education district board, or the proceedings may be directed to leave.
5. Personal Attacks: Personal attacks by anyone addressing the education district board are unacceptable. Persistence in such remarks by an individual shall terminate that person's privilege to address the education district board.
6. Limitations on Participation: Depending upon the number of persons in attendance seeking to be heard, the education district board reserves the right to impose such other limitations and restrictions as necessary to provide an orderly, efficient, and fair opportunity to be heard.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 123A.15 (Establishing Education Districts)  
Minn. Stat. § 123A.30 (Agreements for Secondary Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.51 (Schoolhouses and Sites: Uses for School and Nonschool Purposes; Closings)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 206 (Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations)

## 413 HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE

*[Note: ~~State law~~ (Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03 ) requires that education districts adopt a sexual, religious, and racial harassment and violence policy that conforms with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes, section 363A (MHRA). This policy complies with that statutory requirement and addresses the other classifications protected by the MHRA and/or federal law. While the recommendation is that education districts incorporate the other protected classifications, in addition to sex, religion, and race, into this policy, they are not specifically required to do so by Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is required to maintain and make available a model sexual, religious, and racial harassment policy in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03. MDE's policy differs from that of MSBA and imposes greater requirements upon education districts than required by law. For that reason, MSBA recommends the adoption of its model policy by education districts. Each education district board must submit a copy of the policy the board has adopted to the Commissioner of MDE.]*

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability (Protected Class).

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the education district is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of Protected Class. The education district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel harasses a student, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other education district personnel through conduct or communication based on a person's Protected Class, as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, education district personnel include education district board members, education district employees, agents, volunteers, contractors, or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district.)

- C. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel inflicts, threatens to inflict, or attempts to inflict violence upon any student, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other education district personnel based on a person's Protected Class.
- D. The education district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment or violence based on a person's Protected Class, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel found to have violated this policy.

### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assault" is:
  - 1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
  - 2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
  - 3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.
- B. "Harassment" prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual's or group of individuals' race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability, when the conduct:
  - 1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;
  - 2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
  - 3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.
- C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. Protected Classifications; Definitions
  - 1. "Disability" means, with respect to an individual who

- a. a physical sensory or mental impairment that materially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
  - b. has a record of such an impairment; or
  - c. is regarded as having such an impairment.
2. “Familial status” means the condition of one or more minors ~~being domiciled with~~ having legal status or custody with:
- a. the ~~is~~ minor’s parent or parents or the minor’s legal guardian or guardians; or
  - b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians. Familial status also means residing with and caring for one or more individuals who lack the ability to meet essential requirements for physical health, safety, or self-care because the individual or individuals are unable to receive and evaluate information or make or communicate decisions. The protections afforded against harassment or discrimination on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not attained the age of majority.
3. “Marital status” means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment or discrimination on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.
4. “National origin” means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual’s lineal ancestors.
5. “Sex” includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.
6. “Sexual orientation” means having or being perceived as having an emotional, physical, or sexual attachment to another person without regard to the sex of that person or having or being perceived as having an orientation for such attachment, or having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one’s biological maleness or femaleness. “Sexual orientation” does not include a physical or sexual attachment to children by an adult.
7. “Status with regard to public assistance” means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including



rental assistance or rent supplements.

E. “Remedial response” means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.

F. Sexual Harassment; Definition

1. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

- a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment or an education; or
- b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual’s employment or education; or
- c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual’s employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational environment.

2. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
- b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
- c. unwelcome, sexually motivated, or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators, or other education district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
- d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual’s employment or educational status;
- e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual’s employment or educational status; or
- f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of

sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression.

G. Sexual Violence; Definition

1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof that involves the touching of another's intimate parts or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.
2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:
  - a. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts
  - b. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;
  - c. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another; or
  - d. threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

H. Violence; Definition

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to an individual's Protected Class.

**IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class by a student, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other education district personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate education district official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct that may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. However, the education district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The education district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the education district office, but oral reports shall be considered

complaints as well.

- C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to an education district human rights officer or to the executive director. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the executive director or the education district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. In Each School Building. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the executive director or the education district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.
- E. A teacher, education district administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other education district employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. Education district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the education district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.
- G. In the District. The education district board hereby designates Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director as the education district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly

with the executive director.<sup>1</sup>

- H. The education district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- L. The education district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the education district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.
- M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.
- N. False accusations or reports of violence or harassment against another person are prohibited.
- O. A person who engages in an act of violence or harassment, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of violence or harassment, or permits, condones, or tolerates violence or harassment shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the education district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, or are a party to, prohibited acts of violence or harassment or who engage in reprisal or intentional false reporting may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate violence or harassment or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of violence or harassment may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of violence or harassment may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from education district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

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<sup>1</sup> In some education districts the executive director may be the human rights officer. If so, an alternative individual should be designated by the education district board.

## **V. INVESTIGATION**

- A. By authority of the education district, the human rights officer, within three (3) days of the receipt of a report or complaint alleging harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, shall undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by education district officials or by a third party designated by the education district.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.
- C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the education district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- D. In addition, the education district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the target or victim, the complainant, and students, teachers, administrators, or other education district personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy.
- E. The alleged perpetrator of the act(s) of harassment or violence shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The education district human rights officer shall make a written report to the executive director upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the executive director, the report may be filed directly with the education district board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

## **VI. EDUCATION DISTRICT ACTION**

- A. Upon completion of an investigation that determines a violation of this policy has occurred, the education district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. Education district action taken for violation of this policy

will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law, and applicable education district policies and regulations.

- B. The education district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the education district. Education district officials will notify the targets or victims and alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of targets or victims of harassment or violence and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence who have been involved in a reported and confirmed harassment or violence incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- C. In order to prevent or respond to acts of harassment or violence committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the education district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in acts of harassment or violence.

## **VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL**

The education district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of retaliation or alleged harassment or violence, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the harassment or violence. Remedial responses to the harassment or violence shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

## **VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or another state or federal agency, initiating civil action, or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

## **IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE**

- A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under

Minnesota Statutes Chapter. 260E may be applicable.

- B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the education district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence, or abuse.

**X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING**

- A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout each school building in areas accessible to students and staff members.
- B. This policy shall be given to each education district employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the education district.
- C. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- D. The education district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.
- E. The education district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent and reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, resourcefulness, and/or sexual abuse prevention.
- F. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)  
29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* (Age Discrimination in Employment Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)  
42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 401 (Equal Employment Opportunity)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination, Grievance Procedures and Process)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 528 (Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination)



## 416 DRUG, ALCOHOL AND CANNABIS TESTING

*[Note: Drug, alcohol and cannabis testing of school bus drivers and driver applicants is mandatory under federal law. The mandatory testing is described under Part III. of the policy. Drug and alcohol testing of other employees or drug and alcohol testing of school bus drivers beyond that mandated by federal law is optional can be done under state law only if a policy containing provisions such as the provisions of Part IV. of this policy is adopted. Cannabis testing of education district employees and school bus drivers shall conform to federal and Minnesota law. To preserve the right to request or require education district employees who are not bus drivers and applicants to undergo cannabis testing or drug and/or alcohol testing or to require bus drivers to submit to testing that is not federally mandated, an education district should adopt Part IV. as part of its drug and alcohol testing policy.]*

### I. PURPOSE

- A. The education district board recognizes the significant problems created by drug, alcohol, and cannabis use in society in general, and the public schools in particular. The education district board further recognizes the important contribution that the education districts have in shaping the youth of today into the adults of tomorrow.
- B. The education district board believes that a work environment free of drug, alcohol, and cannabis use will be not only safer, healthier, and more productive but also more conducive to effective learning. To provide such an environment, the purpose of this policy is to provide authority so that the education district board may require all employees and/or job applicants to submit to drug, alcohol, and cannabis testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in federal law and Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. All education district employees and job applicants whose positions require a commercial driver's license will be required to undergo drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with federal law and the applicable provisions of this policy. The education district also may request or require that drivers submit to drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.
- B. The education district may request or require that any education district employee or job applicant, other than an employee or applicant whose position requires a commercial driver's license, submit to drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.

- C. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of any drugs not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, whether it has been prescribed for the employee, is prohibited on education district property (which includes education district vehicles), while operating education district vehicles or equipment, and at any education district-sponsored program or event. Use of drugs that are not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, regardless of whether or not it has been prescribed for the employee, is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off education district property. Employees under the influence of drugs that are not medically prescribed are prohibited from entering or remaining on education district property.
- D. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of alcohol or cannabis is prohibited on education district property (which includes education district vehicles), while operating education district vehicles or equipment, and at any education district sponsored program or event. Use of alcohol or cannabis is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off education district property. Employees under the influence of alcohol or cannabis are prohibited from entering or remaining on education district property.
- E. Any employee who violates this section shall be subject to discipline that includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge.
- F. The education district may discipline, discharge, or take other adverse personnel action against an employee for cannabis flower, cannabis product, lower-potency hemp edible, or hemp-derived consumer product use, possession, impairment, sale, or transfer while an employee is working, on education district premises, or operating a education district vehicle, machinery, or equipment as follows:
  - 1. if, as the result of consuming cannabis flower, a cannabis product, a lower-potency hemp edible, or a hemp-derived consumer product, the employee does not possess that clearness of intellect and control of self that the employee otherwise would have;
  - 2. if cannabis testing verifies the presence of cannabis flower, a cannabis product, a lower-potency hemp edible, or a hemp-derived consumer product following a confirmatory test;
  - 3. as provided in the school district's written work rules for cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products and cannabis testing, provided that the rules are in writing and in a written policy that contains the minimum information required by [Minnesota Statutes](#), section 181.952; or

4. as otherwise authorized or required under state or federal law or regulations, or if a failure to do so would cause the school district to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.

### **III. FEDERALLY MANDATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**

#### A. General Statement of Policy

All persons subject to commercial driver's license requirements shall be tested for alcohol, cannabis (including medical cannabis), cocaine, amphetamines, opiates (including heroin), and phencyclidine (PCP), pursuant to federal law. Drivers who test positive for alcohol or drugs shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.

#### B. Definitions

1. "Actual Knowledge" means actual knowledge by the education district that a driver has used alcohol or controlled substances based on: (a) direct observation of the employee's use (not observation of behavior sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing); (b) information provided by a previous employer; (c) a traffic citation; or (d) an employee's admission, except when made in connection with a qualified employee self-admission program.
2. "Alcohol Screening Device" (ASD) means a breath or saliva device, other than an Evidential Breath Testing Device (EBT), that is approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.
3. "Breath Alcohol Technician" (BAT) means an individual who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and who operates the EBT.
4. "Commercial Motor Vehicle" (CMV) includes a vehicle that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
5. "Designated Employer Representative" (DER) means an employee authorized by the school district to take immediate action to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation process. The DER receives test results and other communications for the education district.
6. "Department of Transportation" (DOT) means United States Department of Transportation.
7. "Direct Observation" means observation of alcohol or controlled substances use and does not include observation of employee behavior or physical characteristics sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing.

8. "Driver" is any person who operates a CMV, including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent or occasional drivers, leased drivers, and independent owner-operator contractors.
- 9 "Evidential Breath Testing Device" (EBT) means a device approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the evidentiary testing of breath for alcohol concentration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.
10. "Licensed Medical Practitioner" means a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered, in accordance with applicable Federal, State, local, or foreign laws and regulations, to prescribe controlled substances and other drugs.
11. "Medical Review Officer" (MRO) means a licensed physician responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by the education district's drug testing program and for evaluating medical explanations for certain drug tests.
12. "Refusal to Submit" (to an alcohol or controlled substances test) means that a driver: (a) fails to appear for any test within a reasonable time, as determined by the education district, consistent with applicable DOT regulations, after being directed to do so; (b) fails to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete; (c) fails to provide a urine specimen or an adequate amount of saliva or breath for any DOT drug or alcohol test; (d) fails to permit the observation or monitoring of the driver's provision of a specimen in the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test; (e) fails to provide a sufficient breath specimen or sufficient amount of urine when directed and a determination has been made that no adequate medical explanation for the failure exists; (f) fails or declines to take an additional test as directed by the education district or the collector; (g) fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO or the DER; (h) fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuses to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, fails to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector, fails to sign the certification on the forms); (i) fails to follow the observer's instructions, in an observed collection, to raise the driver's clothing above the waist, lower clothing and underpants, and to turn around to permit the observer to determine if the driver has any type of prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (j) possesses or wears a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (k) admits to the collector or MRO that the driver adulterated or substituted the specimen; or (l) is reported by the MRO as having a verified adulterated or substituted test result. An applicant who fails to appear for a pre-employment test, who leaves the testing site before the pre-employment testing process commences, or who does not provide a urine specimen because he or she has left before it commences is not deemed to have refused to submit to testing.

13. "Safety-sensitive functions" are on-duty functions from the time the driver begins work or is required to be in readiness to work until relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work, and include such functions as driving, loading and unloading vehicles, or supervising or assisting in the loading or unloading of vehicles, servicing, repairing, obtaining assistance to repair, or remaining in attendance during the repair of a disabled vehicle.
14. "Screening Test Technician" (STT) means anyone who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and operates an ASD.
15. "Stand Down" means the practice of temporarily removing an employee from performing safety-sensitive functions based only upon a laboratory report to the MRO of a confirmed positive test for a drug or drug metabolite, an adulterated test, or a substituted test before the MRO completes the verification process.
16. "Substance Abuse Professional" (SAP) means a qualified person who evaluates employees who have violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and aftercare.

### C. Policy and Educational Materials

***[Note: Federal regulations require that education districts provide materials to bus drivers explaining the education district's policies and procedures and the federal requirements with respect to the mandatory drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.601. Most of the required information is contained within this model policy. Additional materials to be provided to employees are described in Paragraph 2. of Section C.]***

1. The education district shall provide a copy of this policy and procedures to each driver prior to the start of its alcohol and drug testing program and to each driver subsequently hired or transferred into a position requiring driving of a CMV.
2. The education district shall provide to each driver information required under Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including information concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or drug problem (the driver's or the co-worker's); and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or controlled substance problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to an employee assistance program, and/or referral to management.
3. The education district shall provide written notice to representatives of employee organizations that the information described above is available.

4. The education district shall require each driver to sign a statement certifying that the driver has received a copy of the policy and materials. This statement should be in the form of Attachment A to this policy. The education district will maintain the original signed certificate and will provide a copy to the driver if the driver so requests.

***[Note: The federal regulations require an education district to obtain a signed statement from each driver certifying that he or she has received a copy of these materials. 49 Code of Federal Regulations 382.601(d). The original signed certificate must be maintained by the education district and a copy may be provided to the driver.]***

#### D. Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program Manager

***[Note: Education districts are required by federal regulations to designate a person to answer driver questions about the policy and the education materials described in Section C. above and to notify the drivers of the designation. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.601(b)(1).]***

1. The program manager will coordinate the implementation, direction, and administration of the alcohol and controlled substances testing policy for bus drivers. The program manager is the principal contact for the collection site, the testing laboratory, the MRO, the BAT, the SAP, and the person submitting to the test. Employee questions concerning this policy shall be directed to the program manager.
2. The education district shall designate a program manager and provide written notice of the designation to each driver along with this policy.

#### E. Specific Prohibitions for Drivers

***[Note: The specific prohibitions for drivers are contained, in large part, in 49 Code of Federal Regulations 382.201-382.215.]***

1. Alcohol Concentration. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater. Drivers who test greater than 0.04 will be taken out of service and will be subject to evaluation by a professional and retesting at the driver's expense.
2. Alcohol Possession. No driver shall be on duty or operate a CMV while the driver possesses alcohol.
3. On-Duty Use. No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions.

4. Pre-Duty Use. No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol.
5. Use Following an Accident. No driver required to take a post-accident test shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident, or until the driver undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.
6. Refusal to Submit to a Required Test. No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or controlled substances test required by post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty, or follow-up testing requirements. A verified adulterated or substituted drug test shall be considered a refusal to test.
7. Use of Controlled Substances. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substance, except when the use is pursuant to instructions (which have been presented to the education district) from a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Controlled substances include medical cannabis, regardless of whether the driver is enrolled in the state registry program.
8. Positive, Adulterated, or Substituted Test for Controlled Substance. No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty, or perform a safety-sensitive function if the driver tests positive for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for controlled substances.
9. General Prohibition. Drivers are also subject to the general policies and procedures of the education district that prohibit possession, transfer, sale, exchange, reporting to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and consumption of drugs or alcohol while at work or while on education district premises or operating any education district vehicle, machinery, or equipment.

#### F. Other Alcohol-Related Conduct

***[Note: Consequences for drivers engaging in alcohol-related conduct are described in the federal regulations. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.505.]***

No driver found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04 shall perform safety-sensitive functions for at least twenty-four (24) hours following administration of the test. The education district will not take any action under this policy other than removal from safety-sensitive functions based solely on test results showing an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04 but may take action otherwise consistent with law and the policies of the education district.

## G. Prescription Drugs/Cannabinoid Products

A driver shall inform the driver's supervisor if at any time the driver is using a controlled substance pursuant to a physician's prescription. The physician's instructions shall be presented to the education district upon request. Use of a prescription drug shall be allowed if the physician has advised the driver that the prescribed drug will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Use of medical cannabis is prohibited notwithstanding the driver's enrollment in the patient registry. Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for marijuana. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if a driver claims to have only used non-intoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products.

## H. Testing Requirements

### 1. Pre-Employment Testing

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.301 details the requirements for pre-employment testing.]***

- a. A driver applicant shall undergo testing for [alcohol and] controlled substances, including medical cannabis, before the first time the driver performs safety-sensitive functions for the education district.

***[Note: A education district is permitted, but not required, to conduct pre-employment testing for the use of alcohol. If an education district elects to require pre-employment testing for alcohol, it should include the bracketed text in Subparagraph a., above, and test all applicants uniformly.]***

- b. Tests shall be conducted only after the applicant has received a conditional offer of employment.
- c. To be hired, the applicant must test negative and must sign an agreement in the form of Attachment B to this policy, authorizing former employers to release to the education district all information on the applicant's alcohol tests with results of blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or higher, or verified positive results for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or refusals to be tested (including verified adulterated or substituted drug test results), or any other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations, or, if the applicant violated the testing regulations, documentation of the applicant's successful completion of DOT return-to-duty requirements (including follow-up tests), within the preceding two (2) years.

***[Note: The Federal regulations require education districts to inquire about, obtain, and review alcohol and controlled substances information from prior employers pursuant to a driver's written authorization,***



*prior to the time a driver performs safety-sensitive functions, if feasible. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.413 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 40.25. If not feasible, education districts must not permit the employee to perform safety-sensitive functions for more than thirty (30) days from the date a safety-sensitive function was performed unless the education districts make good faith efforts to obtain the information and to make a record of those efforts to be retained in the driver's qualification file.]*

- d. The applicant also must be asked whether he or she has tested positive, or refused to test, on any pre-employment drug or alcohol test administered by an employer to which the employee, during the last two (2) years, applied for, but did not obtain, safety-sensitive transportation work covered by DOT testing rules.
- e. Before employing a driver subject to controlled substances and alcohol testing, the school district must conduct a full pre-employment query of the federal Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") to obtain information about whether the driver (1) has a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result; (2) has an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; (3) has refused to submit to a test in violation of federal law; or (4) that an employer has reported actual knowledge that the driver used alcohol on duty, before duty, or following an accident in violation of federal law or used a controlled substance in violation of federal law. The applicant must give specific written or electronic consent for the education district to conduct the Clearinghouse full query. The education district shall retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the query.

## 2. Post-Accident Testing

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.303 governs post-accident testing of drivers.]***

- a. As soon as practicable following an accident involving a CMV, the education district shall test the driver for alcohol and controlled substances, including medical cannabis, if the accident involved the loss of human life or if the driver receives a citation for a moving traffic violation arising from an accident which results in bodily injury or disabling damage to a motor vehicle.
- b. Drivers should be tested for alcohol use within two (2) hours and no later than eight (8) hours after the accident.

- c. Drivers should be tested for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, no later than thirty-two (32) hours after the accident.
- d. A driver subject to post-accident testing must remain available for testing, or shall be considered to have refused to submit to the test.
- e. If a post-accident alcohol test is not administered within two (2) hours following the accident, the education district shall prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours.
- f. If a post-accident alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the accident or a post-accident controlled substances test is not administered within thirty-two (32) hours following the accident, the education district shall cease attempts to administer the test, and prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons for not administering the test.
- g. The school district shall report drug and alcohol program violations to the Clearinghouse as required under federal law.

### 3. Random Testing

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.305 governs random testing of drivers.]***

- a. The education district shall conduct tests on a random basis at unannounced times throughout the year, as required by the federal regulations.

***[Note: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) sets the random alcohol selection and testing rate at 10% of the average number of driver positions and evaluates this minimum percentage each year. Education districts can elect to stay at the 1998 level of 25% (or a higher percentage) if they do not want to monitor the minimum annual percentage rate set by the FHWA. The random controlled substances selection and testing rate has remained at 50% each year and has not been lowered to 25% as is possible under the regulations.]***

- b. The education district shall test for alcohol at a minimum annual percentage rate of 10% of the average number of driver positions, and for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, at a minimum annual percentage of 50%.
- c. The education district shall adopt a scientifically valid method for selecting drivers for testing, such as a random number table or a

computer-based random number generator that is matched with identifying numbers of the drivers. Each driver shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made. Each driver selected for testing shall be tested during the selection period.

- d. Random tests shall be unannounced. Dates for administering random tests shall be spread reasonably throughout the calendar year.
- e. Drivers shall proceed immediately to the collection site upon notification of selection; provided, however, that if the driver is performing a safety-sensitive function, other than driving, at the time of notification, the driver shall cease to perform the function and proceed to the collection site as soon as possible.

#### 4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.307 governs reasonable suspicion testing of drivers.]***

- a. The education district shall require a driver to submit to an alcohol test and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, test when a supervisor or education district official, who has been trained in accordance with the regulations, has reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver has used alcohol and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, on duty or within four (4) hours before coming on duty, or just after the period of the work day. The test shall be done as soon as practicable following the observation of the behavior indicative of the use of controlled substances or alcohol.
- b. The reasonable suspicion determination must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. The required observations for reasonable suspicion of a controlled substances violation may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.
- c. Alcohol testing shall be administered within two (2) hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion. If it is not done within two (2) hours, the education district shall prepare and maintain a record explaining why it was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours. If an alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the determination of reasonable suspicion, the education district shall cease attempts to administer the test and state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.

- d. The supervisor or education district official who makes observations leading to a controlled substance's reasonable suspicion test shall make and sign a written record of the observations within twenty four (24) hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier.

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 382.309, 40.23(d), and 40.305 govern return-to-duty testing.]***

5. Return-To-Duty Testing. A driver found to have violated this policy shall not return to work until an SAP has determined the employee has successfully complied with prescribed education and/or treatment and until undergoing return-to-duty tests indicating an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 and a confirmed negative result for the use of controlled substances. The education district is not required to return a driver to safety-sensitive duties because the driver has met these conditions; this is a personnel decision subject to collective bargaining agreements or other legal requirements.

***[Note: 49 C.F.R. §§ 382.311, 40.307, and 40.309 govern follow-up testing.]***

6. Follow-Up Testing. When an SAP has determined that a driver is in need of assistance in resolving problems with alcohol and/or controlled substances, the driver shall be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the SAP for up to sixty (60) months after completing a treatment program.
7. Refusal to Submit and Attendant Consequences

***[Note: Consequences for refusals to submit to required drug and alcohol tests are addressed generally in 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 40.191, 40.261, and 382.211. They are more specifically addressed in 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 382.501- 382.507 and in 49 U.S.C. § United States Code section 521(b).]***

- a. A driver or driver applicant may refuse to submit to drug and alcohol testing.
- b. Refusal to submit to a required drug or alcohol test subjects the driver or driver applicant to the consequences specified in federal regulations as well as the civil and/or criminal penalty provisions of 49 United States Code section 521(b). In addition, a refusal to submit to testing establishes a presumption that the driver or driver applicant would test positive if a test were conducted and makes the driver or driver applicant subject to discipline or disqualification under this policy.

- c. A driver applicant who refuses to submit to testing shall be disqualified from further consideration for the conditionally offered position.
- d. An employee who refuses to submit to testing shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions and will be considered insubordinate and subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. If an employee is offered an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty, the employee will be evaluated by an SAP and must submit to a return-to-duty test prior to being considered for reassignment to safety-sensitive functions.
- e. Drivers or driver applicants who refuse to submit to required testing will be required to sign Attachment C to this policy.

## Testing Procedures

### 1. Drug Testing

***[Note: The Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form (CCF) must be used to document every urine collection required by the DOT drug testing program. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 40.45.]***

- a. Drug testing is conducted by analyzing a donor's urine specimen. Split urine samples will be collected in accordance with federal regulations. The donor will provide a urine sample at a designated collection site. The collection site personnel will then pour the sample into two sample bottles, labeled "primary" and "split," seal the specimen bottles, complete the chain of custody form, and prepare the specimen bottles for shipment to the testing laboratory for analysis. The specimen preparation shall be conducted in sight of the donor.
- b. If the donor is unable to provide the appropriate quantity of urine, the collection site person shall instruct the individual to drink up to forty (40) ounces of fluid distributed reasonably through a period of up to three (3) hours to attempt to provide a sample. If the individual is still unable to provide a complete sample, the test shall be discontinued and the education district notified. The DER shall refer the donor for a medical evaluation to determine if the donor's inability to provide a specimen is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test. For pre-employment testing, the education district may elect to not have a referral made, and revoke the employment offer.

c. Drug test results are reported directly to the MRO by the testing laboratory. The MRO reports the results to the DER. If the results are negative, the education district is informed and no further action is necessary. If the test result is confirmed positive, adulterated, substituted, or invalid, the MRO shall give the donor an opportunity to discuss the test result. The MRO will contact the donor directly, on a confidential basis, to determine whether the donor wishes to discuss the test result. The MRO shall notify each donor that the donor has seventy-two (72) hours from the time of notification in which to request a test of the split specimen at the donor's expense. No split specimen testing is done for an invalid result.

d. If the donor requests an analysis of the split specimen within seventy-two (72) hours of having been informed of a confirmed positive test, the MRO shall direct, in writing, the laboratory to provide the split specimen to another Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA certified laboratory for analysis. If the donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours, the donor may present the MRO information documenting that serious illness, injury, inability to contact the MRO, lack of actual notice of the confirmed positive test, or other circumstances unavoidably prevented the donor from timely making contact. If the MRO concludes that a legitimate explanation for the donor's failure to contact him/her within seventy-two (72) hours exists, the MRO shall direct the analysis of the split specimen. The MRO will review the confirmed positive test result to determine whether an acceptable medical reason for the positive result exists. The MRO shall confirm and report a positive test result to the DER and the employee when no legitimate medical reason for a positive test result as received from the testing laboratory exists.

e. If, after making reasonable efforts and documenting those efforts, the MRO is unable to reach the donor directly, the MRO must contact the DER who will direct the donor to contact the MRO. If the DER is unable to contact the donor, the donor will be suspended from performing safety-sensitive functions.

f. The MRO may confirm the test as a positive without having communicated directly with the donor about the test results under the following circumstances:

- (1) The donor expressly declines the opportunity to discuss the test results;
- (2) The donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours of being instructed to do so by the DER; or
- (3) The MRO and the DER, after making and documenting all reasonable efforts, have not been able to contact the donor within ten (10) days of the date the confirmed test result was received from the laboratory.

## 2. Alcohol Testing

***[Note: The DOT Alcohol Testing Form (ATF) must be used for every DOT alcohol test. 49 Code of Federal Regulations 40.225]***

- a. The federal alcohol testing regulations require testing to be administered by a BAT using an EBT or an STT using an ASD. EBTs and ASDs can be used for screening tests but only EBTs can be used for confirmation tests.
- b. Any test result less than 0.02 alcohol concentration is considered a “negative” test.
- c. If the donor is unable to provide sufficient saliva for an ASD, the DER will immediately arrange to use an EBT. If the donor attempts and fails to provide an adequate amount of breath, the education district will direct the donor to obtain a written evaluation from a licensed physician to determine if the donor’s inability to provide a breath sample is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test.
- d. If the screening test results show alcohol concentration of 0.02 or higher, a confirmatory test conducted on an EBT will be required to be performed between fifteen (15) and thirty (30) minutes after the completion of the screening test.
- e. Alcohol tests are reported directly to the DER.

## J. Driver/Driver Applicant Rights

1. All drivers and driver applicants subject to the controlled substances testing provisions of this policy who receive a confirmed positive test result for the use of controlled substances have the right to request, at the driver’s or driver applicant’s expense, a confirming retest of the split urine sample. If the confirming retest is negative, no adverse action will be taken against the driver, and a driver applicant will be considered for employment.

***[Note: The limitation on discharge in Paragraph 2., below, is contained solely in Minnesota law. State law is preempted by federal laws and regulations as it relates to drivers of commercial motor vehicles (such as bus drivers). See Minnesota Statute section 221.031, Subd. 10. Nevertheless, education districts may decide to comply with the state law requirements for various reasons (such as to treat all education district employees equally since employees subject to testing only under state law are accorded these additional rights). Consultation with the education district’s legal counsel is recommended.]***

2. The education district will not discharge a driver who, for the first time, receives a confirmed positive drug or alcohol test UNLESS:

- a. The education district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the education district after consultation with the SAP; and
- b. The employee refuses to participate in the recommended program, or fails to successfully complete the program as evidenced by withdrawal before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
- c. This limitation on employee discharge does not bar discharge of an employee for reasons independent of the first confirmed positive test result.

K. Testing Laboratory

The testing laboratory for controlled substances will be [*name, address, telephone number*], which is a laboratory certified by the Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA to perform controlled substances testing pursuant to federal regulations.

L. Confidentiality of Test Results

All alcohol and controlled substances test results and required records of the drug and alcohol testing program are considered confidential information under federal law and private data on individuals as that phrase is defined in Minnesota Statute Chapters 13. Any information concerning the individual's test results and records shall not be released without written permission of the individual, except as provided for by regulation or law.

M. Recordkeeping Requirements and Retention of Records

1. The education district shall keep and maintain records in accordance with the federal regulations in a secure location with controlled access.

***[Note: The federal recordkeeping requirements for education districts are detailed in the federal regulations 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 382.401 et seq. and 40.331. The DOT publishes a guide to the recordkeeping requirements of mandatory drug and alcohol testing for persons with a commercial driver's license as part of its Alcohol & Drugs: DOT Compliance Manual.]***

2. The required records shall be retained for the following minimum periods:

Basic records 5 years



“Basic records” includes records of: (a) alcohol test results with concentration of 0.02 or greater; (b) verified positive drug test results; (c) refusals to submit to required tests (including substituted or adulterated drug test results); (d) SAP reports; (e) all follow-up tests and schedules for follow-up tests; (f) calibration documentation; (g) administration of the testing programs; and (h) each annual calendar year summary.

Information obtained from previous employers 3 years

Alcohol and controlled substance collection procedures 2 years

Negative and canceled controlled substance tests 1 year

Alcohol tests with less than 0.02 concentration 1 year

Education and training records indefinite “Education and training records” must be maintained while the individuals perform the functions which require training and for the two (2) years after ceasing to perform those functions.

### 3. Personal Information

Personal information about all individuals who undergo any required testing under this policy will be shared with the U.S. DOT Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse (“Clearinghouse) as required under federal law, including:

- a. The name of the person tested;
- b. Any verified positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result;
- c. Any alcohol confirmation test with a BAC concentration of 0.04 or higher;
- d. Any refusal to submit to any test required hereunder;
- e. Any report by a supervisor of actual knowledge of use as follows
  - i. Any on-duty alcohol use;
  - ii. Any pre-duty alcohol use;
  - iii. Any alcohol use following an accident; and
  - iv. Any controlled substance use.
- f. Any report from a substance abuse professional certifying successful completion of the return-to-work process;
- g. Any negative return-to-duty test; and
- h. Any employer’s report of completion of follow-up testing.

## N. Training

The education district shall ensure all persons designated to supervise drivers receive training. The designated employees shall receive at least sixty (60) minutes of training on alcohol misuse and at least sixty (60) minutes of training on controlled substances use. The training shall include physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of probable misuse of alcohol and use of controlled substances. The training will be used by the supervisors to make determinations of reasonable suspicion.

## O. Consequences of Prohibited Conduct and Enforcement

1. Removal. The education district shall remove a driver who has engaged in prohibited conduct from safety-sensitive functions. A driver shall not be permitted to return to safety-sensitive functions until and unless the return to-duty requirements of federal DOT regulations have been completed.

### 2. Referral, Evaluation, and Treatment

a. A driver or driver applicant who has engaged in prohibited conduct shall be provided a listing of SAPs readily available to the driver or applicant and acceptable to the education district.

***[Note: Subparagraphs b. and c., below, are based on the provisions of 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 40.289.]***

b. If the education district offers a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following a violation, the driver must be evaluated by an SAP and the driver is required to successfully comply with the SAP's evaluation recommendations (education, treatment, follow-up evaluation(s), and/or ongoing services). The education district is not required to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.

***[Note: Education districts are not required to comply with state law governing drug and alcohol testing when the individuals are subject to the federal laws and regulations (i.e., bus drivers). If a education district, after consultation with legal counsel, chooses to comply voluntarily with these requirements, Subparagraph b., above, can be modified as follows:***

***b. The education district will offer a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following an employee's first positive test result on a confirmatory test if no reasons independent of the first test result for discharge exist. Otherwise, the education district may choose, but is not required, to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.]***

- c. Drivers are responsible for payment for SAP evaluations and services unless a collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan provides otherwise.
- d. Drivers who engage in prohibited conduct also are required to comply with follow-up testing requirements.

### 3. Disciplinary Action

- a. Any driver who refuses to submit to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, or follow-up testing not only shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions, but also may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.
- b. Drivers who test positive with verification of a confirmatory test or are otherwise found to be in violation of this policy or the federal regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.
- c. Nothing in this policy limits or restricts the right of the education district to discipline or discharge a driver for conduct which not only constitutes prohibited conduct under this policy but also violates the education district's other rules or policies.

### P. Other Testing

The education district may request or require that drivers submit to drug and alcohol testing other than that required by federal law. For example, drivers may be requested or required to undergo drug and alcohol testing on an annual basis as part of a routine physical examination. Such additional testing of drivers will be conducted only in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statute sections 181.950-181.957. For purposes of such additional, non-mandatory testing, drivers fall within the definition of "other employees" covered by Section IV. of this policy.

***[Note: When the testing of drivers complies with federal testing requirements and procedures, education districts clearly are exempt from the state drug and alcohol testing requirements in Minnesota Statute sections 181.950-181.957. See Minnesota Statute section 221.031, subdivision 10. When testing beyond the federally mandated requirements, however, education districts still must comply with state law.]***

### Q. Report to Clearinghouse

The education district shall promptly submit to the Clearinghouse any record generated of an individual who refuses to take an alcohol or controlled substance test required under Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, tests positive for alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of federal regulations, or violates subpart B of Part 382 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or any subsequent corresponding regulations).

## R. Annual Clearinghouse Query

1. The education district must conduct a query of the Clearinghouse record at least once per year for information for all employees subject to controlled substance and alcohol testing related to CMV operation to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse about those employees. In lieu of a full query, the education district may obtain the individual driver's consent to conduct a limited query to satisfy the annual query requirement. The limited query will tell the employer whether there is information about the driver in the Clearinghouse but will not release that information to the employer. If the limited query shows that information exists in the Clearinghouse about the driver, the education district must conduct a full query within twenty-four (24) hours or must not allow the driver to continue to perform any safety-sensitive function until the employee conducts the full query and the results confirm the driver's Clearinghouse record contains no prohibitions showing the driver has a verified positive, adulterated or substitute controlled substance test, no alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher, refuses to submit to a test, or was reported to have used alcohol on duty, before duty, following an accident or otherwise used a controlled substance in violation of the regulations except where the driver completed the SAP evaluation, referral and education/treatment process as required by the regulations. The education district shall comply with the query requirements set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations 382.701.
2. The education district may not access an individual's Clearinghouse record unless the education district (1) obtains the individual's prior written or electronic consent for access to the record; and (2) submits proof of the individual's consent to the Clearinghouse. The education district must retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the last query. The education district shall retain for three (3) years a record of each request for records from the Clearinghouse and the information received pursuant to the request.
3. The education district shall protect the individual's privacy and confidentiality of each Clearinghouse record it receives. The education district shall ensure that information contained in a Clearinghouse record is not divulged to a person or entity not directly involved in assessing and evaluating whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the education district.

4. The education district may use an individual's Clearinghouse record only to assess and evaluate whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the education district.

#### **IV. CANNABIS TESTING OR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES**

The education district may request or require drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing for other education district personnel, i.e., employees who are not school bus drivers, or job applicants for such positions. The education district does not have a legal duty to request or require any employee or job applicant to undergo drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing as authorized in this policy, except for school bus drivers and other drivers of CMVs who are subject to federally mandated testing. (See Section III. of this policy.) If a school bus driver is requested or required to submit to drug or alcohol testing beyond that mandated by federal law, the provisions of Section IV. of this policy will be applicable to such testing.

##### **A. Definitions**

1. "Cannabis testing" means the analysis of a body component sample according to the standards established under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of cannabis flower, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 342.01, subdivision 16, cannabis products, as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 20, lower-potency hemp edibles as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 50, hemp-derived consumer products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 37, or cannabis metabolites in the sample tested. The definitions in this section apply to cannabis testing unless stated otherwise.

2. "Confirmatory test" and "confirmatory retest" mean a drug or alcohol test that uses a method of analysis allowed under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.

3. "Drug" means a controlled substance as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 152.01, subdivision 4, but does not include marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinols, cannabis flower as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 16, cannabis products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 20, lower-potency hemp edibles as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 50, and hemp-derived consumer products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 37.

4. "Drug and Alcohol Testing," "Drug or Alcohol Testing," and "Drug or Alcohol Test" mean analysis of a body component sample by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested. "Drug and alcohol testing," "drug or alcohol testing," and "drug or alcohol test" do not include cannabis or cannabis testing, unless stated otherwise.

5. "Employee" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who performs services for compensation, in whatever form, for an employer.

6. "Initial screening test" means a drug or alcohol test or cannabis test which uses a method of analysis under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.

7. "Job Applicant" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who applies to become an employee of the school district in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license, and includes a person who has received a job offer made contingent on the person's passing drug or alcohol testing. Job applicants for positions requiring a commercial driver's license are governed by the provisions of the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III).

8. "Oral fluid test" means analysis of a saliva sample for the purpose of measuring the presence of the same substances as drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing that:

- a. Can detect drugs, alcohol, cannabis, or their metabolites in levels at or above the threshold detection levels contained in the standards of one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1; and
- b. does not require the services of a testing laboratory under sections 181.953, subdivision 1.

(NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature added oral fluid tests.)

9. "Other Employees" means any persons, independent contractors, or persons working for an independent contractor who perform services for the school district for compensation, either full time or part time, in whatever form, except for persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license, and includes both professional and nonprofessional personnel. Persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license are primarily governed by the provisions of the district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III.). To the extent that the drug and alcohol testing of persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license is not mandated by federal law and regulations, such testing shall be governed by Section IV. of this policy and the drivers shall fall within this definition of "other employees."

10. "Positive Test Result" means a finding of the presence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested in levels at or above the threshold detection levels contained in the standards of one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.

11. "Random Selection Basis" means a mechanism for selection of employees that:

- a. results in an equal probability that any employee from a group of employees subject to the selection mechanism will be selected; and
- b. does not give the school district discretion to waive the selection of any employee selected under the mechanism.

12. “Reasonable Suspicion” means a basis for forming a belief based on specific facts and rational inferences drawn from those facts.

13. “Safety-Sensitive Position” means a job, including any supervisory or management position, in which an impairment caused by drug, alcohol, or cannabis usage would threaten the health or safety of any person.

B . Circumstances Under Which Drug or Alcohol Testing May Be Requested or Required:

1. General Limitations

- a. The education district ~~will~~ may not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver’s license to undergo drug or alcohol testing or cannabis testing, unless the testing is done pursuant to this drug and alcohol testing policy; and either (1) is conducted by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statute section 181.953, subdivision 1 ~~–~~; or (2) complies with the oral fluid test procedures under section 181.953, subdivision 5a.

(NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature amended this provision.)

- b. The education district will not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver’s license to undergo drug and alcohol testing on an arbitrary and capricious basis.

2. Cannabis Testing Exceptions

For the following positions, cannabis and its metabolites are considered a drug and subject to the drug and alcohol testing provisions in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950 to 181.957:

- a. A safety-sensitive position, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.950, subdivision 13;
- b. a position requiring face-to-face care, training, education, supervision, counseling, consultation, or medical assistance to children;
- c. a position requiring a commercial driver’s license or requiring an employee to operate a motor vehicle for which state or federal law requires drug or alcohol testing of a job applicant or an employee;
- d. a position of employment funded by a federal grant; or
- e. any other position for which state or federal law requires testing of a job applicant or an employee for cannabis.

3. Job Applicant Testing

The education district may request or require any job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing, provided a job offer has been made to the applicant and the same test is requested or required of all job applicants conditionally offered employment for that position. If a job applicant has received a job offer that is contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the education district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the event the job offer is subsequently withdrawn, the education district shall notify the job applicant of the reason for its action.

- a. The education district must not request or require a job applicant to undergo cannabis testing solely for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of cannabis as a condition of employment unless otherwise required by state or federal law.
- b. Unless otherwise required by state or federal law, the education district must not refuse to hire a job applicant solely because the job applicant submits to a cannabis test or a drug and alcohol test authorized by Minnesota law and the results of the test indicate the presence of cannabis.
- c. The education district must not request or require an employee or job applicant to undergo cannabis testing on an arbitrary or capricious basis.
- d. Cannabis testing authorized under paragraph (d) must comply with the safeguards for testing employees provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.953 and 181.954.

4. Oral fluid testing

a. When drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing is otherwise authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.951, the school district may request an employee or job applicant to undergo oral fluid testing according to the procedures under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 5a as an alternative to using the services of a testing laboratory under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.

b. The employee must be informed of the test result at the time of the oral fluid test. Within 48 hours of an oral fluid test that indicates a positive test result or that is inconclusive or invalid, the employee or job applicant may request drug or alcohol testing or cannabis testing at no cost to the employee or job applicant using the services of a testing laboratory under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, and according to the existing laboratory testing standards in subdivisions 1 to 5. The rights, notice, and limitations in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 6, paragraph (b), and subdivisions 7 to 8 and 10 to



11 apply to an employee or job applicant and a laboratory test conducted pursuant to this paragraph.

c. If the laboratory test under paragraph (b) above indicates a positive result, any subsequent confirmatory retest, if requested by the employee or job applicant, must be conducted following the retest procedures provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), and subdivision 9 at the employee's or job applicant's own expense.

d. Nothing in this subdivision is intended to modify the existing requirements for drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing in the workplace under Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950 to 181.957, unless stated otherwise.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision.]**

#### **45. Random Testing**

The education district may request or require employees to undergo drug and alcohol testing on a random selection basis only if they are employed in safety-sensitive positions.

#### **46. Reasonable Suspicion Testing**

The education district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing if the education district has a reasonable suspicion that the employee:

- a. is under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- b. has violated the education district's written work rules prohibiting the use, possession, sale, or transfer of drugs or alcohol while the employee is working or while the employee is on the education district's premises or operating the education district's vehicles, machinery, or equipment;
- c. has sustained a personal injury, as that term is defined in Minnesota Statute section 176.011, subdivision 16, or has caused another employee to sustain a personal injury; or
- d. has caused a work-related accident or was operating or helping to operate machinery, equipment, or vehicles involved in a work related accident.

#### **57. Treatment Program Testing**

The education district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing if the employee has been referred by the education district for chemical dependency treatment or evaluation or is participating in a chemical dependency treatment program under an employee benefit

plan, in which case the employee may be requested or required to undergo drug and alcohol testing without prior notice during the evaluation or treatment period and for a period of up to two (2) years following completion of any prescribed chemical dependency treatment program.

#### 68. Routine Physical Examination Testing

The education district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing as part of a routine physical examination provided the drug or alcohol test is requested or required no more than once annually and the employee has been given at least two weeks' written notice that a drug or alcohol test may be requested or required as part of the physical examination.

#### C. No Legal Duty to Test

The education district does not have a legal duty to request or require any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing.

#### D. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing and Consequences of Such Refusal

##### 1. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license has the right to refuse drug and alcohol testing subject to the provisions contained in Paragraphs 2. and 3. of section IV. D.

##### 2. Consequences of an Employee's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing in the circumstances set out in the Random Testing, Reasonable Suspicion Testing, and Treatment Program Testing provisions of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate discharge.

##### 3. Consequences of a Job Applicant's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any job applicant for a position which does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing pursuant to the Job Applicant Testing provision of this policy shall not be employed.

#### E. Reliability and Fairness Safeguards

##### 1. Pretest Notice

Before requesting an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing, the education district shall provide the employee or job applicant with a Pretest Notice in the form of

Attachment D to this policy on which to acknowledge that the employee or job applicant has received the education district's drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing policy.

## 2. Notice of Test Results

Within three (3) working days after receipt of a test result report from the testing laboratory, the education district shall inform in writing an employee or job applicant who has undergone drug or alcohol testing of a negative test result on an initial screening test or of a negative or positive test result on a confirmatory test.

## 3. Notice of and Right to Test Result Report

Within three (3) working days after receipt of a test result report from the testing laboratory, the education district shall inform in writing, an employee or job applicant who has undergone drug or alcohol testing of the employee or job applicant's right to request and receive from the education district a copy of the test result report on any drug or alcohol test or cannabis test.

## 4. Notice of and Right to Explain Positive Test Result

- a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the education district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to explain the results and to submit additional information (see Attachment G to this policy).
- b. The education district may request that the employee or job applicant indicate any over-the-counter or prescription medication that the individual is currently taking or has recently taken and any other information relevant to the reliability of, or explanation for, a positive test result.
- c. The employee may present verification of enrollment in the medical cannabis patient registry or of enrollment in a Tribal medical cannabis program as part of the employee's explanation.
- d. Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for cannabis. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if an employee claims to have only used non intoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products.
- e. Within three (3) working days after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, an employee or job applicant may submit information (in addition to any information already submitted) to the education district to explain that result.

5. Notice of and Right to Request Confirmatory Retests

- a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the education district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her expense.
  - b. An employee or job applicant may request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her own expense after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test. Within five (5) working days after notice of the confirmatory test result, the employee or job applicant shall notify the education district in writing of his or her intention to obtain a confirmatory retest. Within three (3) working days after receipt of the notice, the education district shall notify the original testing laboratory that the employee or job applicant has requested the laboratory to conduct the confirmatory retest or to transfer the sample to another laboratory licensed under Minnesota Statutes section 181.953, subdivision 1 to conduct the confirmatory retest. The original testing laboratory shall ensure that appropriate chain-of-custody procedures are followed during transfer of the sample to the other laboratory. The confirmatory retest must use the same drug, alcohol or cannabis threshold detection levels as used in the original confirmatory test. If the confirmatory retest does not confirm the original positive test result, no adverse personnel action based on the original confirmatory test may be taken against the employee or job applicant.
6. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the education district, at the time of providing notice of the test results, shall also provide written notice to inform the individual of other rights provided under Sections F. or G., below, whichever is applicable.

Attachments E and F to this policy provide the Notices described in Paragraphs 2. through 6. of this Section E.

F. Discharge and Discipline of Employees Whose Positions Do Not Require a Commercial Driver's License

1. The education district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test.
2. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the employee shall be subject to discipline which includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge, pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

3. The education district may not discharge an employee for whom a positive test result on a confirmatory test was the first such result for the employee on a drug or alcohol test or cannabis test requested by the education district, unless the following conditions have been met:
  - a. The education district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the education district after consultation with a certified chemical abuse counselor or a physician trained in the diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency; and
  - b. The employee has either refused to participate in the counseling or rehabilitation program or has failed to successfully complete the program, as evidenced by withdrawal from the program before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
4. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1., the education district may temporarily suspend the tested employee or transfer that employee to another position at the same rate of pay pending the outcome of the confirmatory test and, if requested, the confirmatory retest, provided the education district believes that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the employee, co-employees or the public. An employee who has been suspended without pay must be reinstated with back pay if the outcome of the confirmatory test or requested confirmatory retest is negative.
5. The education district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of medical history information or the employee's status as a patient enrolled in the medical cannabis registry program revealed to the education district, unless the employee was under an affirmative duty to provide the information before, upon, or after hire, or failing to do so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the education district to lose money or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.
6. The education district may not discriminate against any employee in termination, discharge, or any term of condition of employment or otherwise penalize an employee based upon an employee registered patient's positive drug test for cannabis components or metabolites, unless the employee used, possessed, or was impaired by medical cannabis on education district property during the hours of employment.
7. An employee must be given access to information in the individual's personnel file relating to positive test result reports and other information acquired in the drug and alcohol testing process or cannabis testing process and conclusions drawn from and actions taken based on the reports or other acquired information.

G. Withdrawal of Job Offer for an Applicant for a Position That Does Not Require a Commercial Driver's License

If a job applicant has received a job offer made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the education district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the education district may withdraw the job offer.

H. Chain-of-Custody Procedures

The education district has established its own reliable chain-of-custody procedures to ensure proper record keeping, handling, labeling, and identification of the samples to be tested. The procedures require the following:

1. Possession of a sample must be traceable to the employee from whom the sample is collected, from the time the sample is collected through the time the sample is delivered to the laboratory;
2. The sample must always be in the possession of, must always be in view of, or must be placed in a secure area by a person authorized to handle the sample;
3. A sample must be accompanied by a written chain-of-custody record; and
4. Individuals relinquishing or accepting possession of the sample must record the time the possession of the sample was transferred and must sign and date the chain-of-custody record at the time of transfer.

I. Privacy, Confidentiality and Privilege Safeguards

1. Privacy Limitations

A laboratory may only disclose to the education district test result data regarding the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol or their metabolites in a sample tested.

2. Confidentiality Limitations

With respect to employees and job applicants, test result reports and other information acquired in the drug or alcohol testing process are private data on individuals as that phrase is defined in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, and may not be disclosed by the education district or laboratory to another employer or to a third-party individual, governmental agency, or private organization without the written consent of the employee or job applicant tested.

### 3. Exceptions to Privacy and Confidentiality Disclosure Limitations

Notwithstanding Paragraphs 1. and 2., evidence of a positive test result on a confirmatory test may be: (1) used in an arbitration proceeding pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, an administrative hearing under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 43A or other applicable state or local law, or a judicial proceeding, provided that information is relevant to the hearing or proceeding; (2) disclosed to any federal agency or other unit of the United States government as required under federal law, regulation or order, or in accordance with compliance requirements of a federal government contract; and (3) disclosed to a substance abuse treatment facility for the purpose of evaluation or treatment of the employee.

#### 4. Privilege

Positive test results from the education district drug or alcohol testing program may not be used as evidence in a criminal action against the employee or job applicant tested.

#### J. Notice of Testing Policy to Affected Employees

The education district shall provide written notice of this drug, alcohol, and cannabis testing policy to all affected employees upon adoption of the policy, to a previously non affected employee upon transfer to an affected position under the policy, and to a job applicant upon hire and before any testing of the applicant if the job offer is made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing. Affected employees and applicants will acknowledge receipt of this written notice in the form of Attachment H to this policy.

## V. **POSTING**

The education district shall post notice in an appropriate and conspicuous location on its premises that it has adopted a drug and alcohol testing policy and that copies of the policy are available for inspection during regular business hours by its employees or job applicants in its personnel office or other suitable locations.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn.Stat. Ch. 43A (State Personnel Management)

Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)

Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)

Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)

Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)

Minn. Stat. § 152.32 (Protections for Registry Program Participation)

Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 16 (Definitions; Personal Injury)

Minn. Stat. §§ 181.950-181.957 (Drug and Alcohol Testing in the Workplace)  
Minn. Stat. § 221.031 (Motor Carrier Rules)  
49 U.S.C. § 31306 (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)  
49 U.S.C. 31306a (National Clearinghouse for Controlled Substance and Alcohol Test  
Results of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators)  
49 U.S.C. § 521(b) (Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violations)  
49 C.F.R. Parts 40 and 382 (Department of Transportation Rules Implementing  
Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)

***Cross-References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of  
Education district Employees)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)



## **418 DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE/DRUG-FREE SCHOOL**

***[Note: Education districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe and healthful environment for employees and students by prohibiting the use of alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, edible cannabinoid products, and controlled substances without a physician's prescription.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. Use or possession of alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, edible cannabinoid products, and controlled substances before, during, or after school hours, at school or in any other school location, is prohibited as general policy. Paraphernalia associated with controlled substances is prohibited.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other education district personnel, or member of the public uses or possesses alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, edible cannabinoid products, or controlled substances in any school location.
- C. An individual may not use or possess cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products in a public school, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.05, subdivisions 9, 11, and 13, including all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that the education district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls.
- D. The education district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, education district personnel, or member of the public who violates this policy.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Alcohol" includes any alcoholic beverage containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol by volume.
- B. "Controlled substances" include narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code section 812, including analogues and look-alike drugs.
- C. "Edible cannabinoid product" means any product that is intended to be eaten or consumed as a beverage by humans, contains a cannabinoid in combination with food ingredients, and is not a drug.
- D. "Nonintoxicating cannabinoid" means substances extracted from certified hemp plants that do not produce intoxicating effects when consumed by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or by any other immediate means.
- E. "Medical cannabis" means any species of the genus cannabis plant, or any mixture or preparation of them, including whole plant extracts and resins, and is delivered in the form of: (1) liquid, including, but not limited to, oil; (2) pill; (3) vaporized delivery

method with use of liquid or oil but which does not require the use of dried leaves or plant form; (4) combustion with use of dried raw cannabis; or (5) any other method approved by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health ("Commissioner").

- F. "Possess" means to have on one's person, in one's effects, or in an area subject to one's control.
- G. "School location" includes any education district building or on any education district premises; in any education district-owned vehicle or in any other education district-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; off education district property at any education district-sponsored or education district-approved activity, event, or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the education district; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the education district or otherwise engaged in education district business.
- H. "Sell" means to sell, give away, barter, deliver, exchange, distribute or dispose of to another, or to manufacture; or to offer or agree to perform such an act, or to possess with intent to perform such an act.
  - I. "Toxic substances" includes: (1) glue, cement, aerosol paint, containing toluene, benzene, xylene, amyl nitrate, butyl nitrate, nitrous oxide, or containing other aromatic hydrocarbon solvents, but does not include glue, cement, or paint contained in a packaged kit for the construction of a model automobile, airplane, or similar item; (2) butane or a butane lighter; or (3) any similar substance declared to be toxic to the central nervous system and to have a potential for abuse, by a rule adopted by the Commissioner.
  - I. "Use" means to sell, buy, manufacture, distribute, dispense, be under the influence of, or consume in any manner, including, but not limited to, consumption by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or by any other immediate means.

#### **IV. EXCEPTIONS**

- A. A violation of this policy does not occur when a person brings onto a school location, for such person's own use, a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, which has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States and the person has a physician's prescription for the substance. The person shall comply with the relevant procedures of this policy.
- B. A violation of this policy does not occur when a person possesses an alcoholic beverage in a school location when the possession is within the exceptions of Minnesota Statutes section 624.701, subdivision 1a (experiments in laboratories; pursuant to a temporary license to sell liquor issued under Minnesota laws or possession after the purchase from such a temporary license holder).
- C. A violation of this policy does not occur when a person uses or possesses a toxic substance unless they do so with the intent of inducing or intentionally aiding another in inducing intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, except under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor.
- D. The education district may not refuse to enroll or otherwise penalize a patient or person enrolled in the Minnesota patient Registry Program as a pupil solely because the patient or person is enrolled in the registry program, unless failing to do so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the school to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.

#### **V. PROCEDURES**

- A. Students who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, must comply with the education district's student medication policy.

***[Note: Education districts are required by Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.22 to develop procedures for the administration of drugs and medicine. If the education district does not have a student medication policy such as MSBA/MASA Model Policy 516, this Paragraph A. can be modified to provide: "Students who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, must provide a copy of the prescription and the medication to the school nurse, principal, or other designated staff member. The education district's licensed school nurse, trained health clerk, principal, or teacher will administer the prescribed medication except medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, in accordance with education district procedures."]***

- B. Employees who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, are permitted to possess such controlled substances and associated necessary paraphernalia, such as an inhaler or syringe. The employee must inform his or her supervisor. The employee may be required to provide a copy of the prescription.

- C. Each employee shall be provided with written notice of this Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free Education district policy and shall be required to acknowledge that he or she has received the policy.

***[Note: The Drug-Free Workplace Act requires that education district employees be notified by a published statement of the prohibition of the use of controlled substances and actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition. 41 United States Code section 8103; 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 84. An acknowledgment will document satisfaction by the education district of this federal requirement.]***

- D. Employees are subject to the education district's drug and alcohol testing policies and procedures.

- E. Members of the public are not permitted to possess controlled substances, intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products in a school location except with the express permission of the superintendent.

- F. No person is permitted to possess or use medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products on a school bus or van; or on the grounds of any preschool or primary or secondary school; or on the grounds of any child care facility. This prohibition includes (1) vaporizing or combusting medical cannabis on any form of public transportation where the vapor or smoke could be inhaled by a minor child or in any public place, including indoor or outdoor areas used by or open to the general public or place of employment; and (2) operating, navigating, or being in actual physical control of any motor vehicle or working on transportation property, equipment or facilities while under the influence of medical cannabis, non intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products.

- G. Possession of alcohol on school grounds pursuant to the exceptions of Minnesota Statutes section 624.701, subdivision 1a, shall be by permission of the education district board only. The applicant shall apply for permission in writing and shall follow the education district board procedures for placing an item on the agenda.

## **VI. EDUCATION DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- A. Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, the school district must implement a comprehensive education program on cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, for students in middle school and high school. The program must include instruction on the topics listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.215, subdivision 1 and must:
  - 1. respect community values and encourage students to communicate with parents, guardians, and other trusted adults about cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl; and
  - 2. refer students to local resources where students may obtain medically accurate information about cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, and treatment for a substance use disorder.
- B. Education district efforts to develop, implement, or improve instruction or curriculum as a result of the provisions of this section must be consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.10 and 120B.11.
- C. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the education district shall have a procedure for a parent, a guardian, or an adult student 18 years of age or older to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or to an adult student pursuant to this article. The district must allow a parent or adult student to opt out of instruction under this article with no academic or other penalty for the student and must inform parents and adult students of this right to opt out.

## **VI. ENFORCEMENT**

- A. Students
  - 1. Students may be required to participate in programs and activities that provide education against the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, smokeless tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and nonintoxicating cannabinoids, and edible cannabinoid products.
  - 2. Students may be referred to drug or alcohol assistance or rehabilitation programs; school based mental health services, mentoring and counseling, including early identification of mental health symptoms, drug use and violence and appropriate referral to direct individual or group counseling service. which may be provided by school based mental health services providers; and/or referral to law enforcement officials when appropriate.
  - 3. A student who violates the terms of this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the education district's discipline policy. Such discipline may include suspension or expulsion from school.
- B. Employees
  - 1. As a condition of employment in any federal grant, each employee who is engaged either directly or indirectly in performance of a federal grant shall abide by the terms of this policy and shall notify his or her supervisor in writing of his or her conviction of any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in any of the places listed above on which work on a education district federal grant is performed, no later than five (5) calendar days after such conviction. Conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged

with the responsibility to determine violations of the federal or state criminal drug statutes.

2. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including nonrenewal, suspension, termination, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the education district board.
3. In addition, any employee who violates the terms of this policy may be required to satisfactorily participate in a drug and/or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved by the education district. Any employee who fails to satisfactorily participate in and complete such a program is subject to nonrenewal, suspension, or termination as deemed appropriate by the education district board.
4. Sanctions against employees, including nonrenewal, suspension, termination, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and education district policies.

C. The Public

A member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave. If necessary, law enforcement officials will be notified and asked to provide an escort.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.215 (Education on Cannabis Use and Substance Use)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.22 (Administration of Drugs and Medicine)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-§ 121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.01, Subd. 15a (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.0264 (Cannabis Sale Crimes)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22, Subd. 6 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 169A.31 (Alcohol-Related School Bus or Head Start Bus Driving)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.101 (Definitions; Alcoholic Beverage)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.403 (3.2 Percent Malt Liquor Licenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.404 (Intoxicating Liquor; On-Sale Licenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 342.09 (Personal Adult Use of Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 342.56 (Limitations)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.684 (Abuse of Toxic Substances)  
Minn. Stat. § 624.701 (Alcohol in Certain Buildings or Grounds)  
20 U.S.C. § 7101-7122 (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)  
21 U.S.C. § 812 (Schedules of Controlled Substances)  
41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106 (Drug-Free Workplace Act)  
21 C.F.R. §§ 1308.11-1308.15 (Controlled Substances)  
34 C.F.R. Part 84 (Government-Wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 419 (Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 516 (Student Medication)

**419 TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT; POSSESSION AND USE OF TOBACCO, TOBACCO-RELATED DEVICES, AND ELECTRONIC DELIVERY DEVICES; VAPING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION INSTRUCTION**

***[Note: Education districts are not required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues. However, Minnesota Statutes, section 144.416 requires that entities that control public places must make reasonable efforts to prevent smoking in public places, including the posting of signs or any other means which may be appropriate. Additionally, Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.238 requires that vaping prevention instruction be provided as set forth in this policy.]***

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is tobacco free.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel of the education district, or person smokes or uses tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or carries or uses an activated electronic delivery device in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a education district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls. In addition, this prohibition includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for work purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all education district property and all off-campus events sponsored by the education district.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any elementary school, middle school, or secondary school student possesses any type of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a education district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls and includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for school purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all education district property and all off-campus events sponsored by the education district.
- C. The education district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, education district personnel, or person who is found to have violated this policy.

***[Note: The following language is not required by law, but is recommended by MSBA for inclusion in this policy.]***

- D. ***The education district will not solicit or accept any contributions or gifts of money, curricula, materials, or equipment from companies that directly manufacture and are identified with tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices. The education district will not promote or allow promotion of tobacco products or electronic delivery devices on school property or at school-sponsored events.***

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Electronic delivery device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine,

lobelia, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. Electronic delivery devices includes but is not limited to devices manufactured, marketed, or sold as electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipe, vape pens, modes, tank systems, or under any other product name or descriptor. Electronic delivery devices include any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately. Electronic delivery devices exclude drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

- B. "Heated tobacco product" means a tobacco product that produces aerosols containing nicotine and other chemicals which are inhaled by users through the mouth.
- C. "Tobacco" means cigarettes and any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including, but not limited to, cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Tobacco excludes any drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.
- D. "Tobacco-related devices" means cigarette papers or pipes for smoking or other devices intentionally designed or intended to be used in a manner which enables the chewing, sniffing, smoking, or inhalation of vapor aerosol or vapor of tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco-related devices include components of tobacco-related devices which may be marketed or sold separately.
- E. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated product containing, made, or derived from nicotine, tobacco, marijuana, or other plant, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for inhalation. Smoking includes carrying or using an activated electronic delivery device.
- F. "Vaping" means using an activated electronic delivery device or heated tobacco product.

#### **IV. EXCEPTIONS**

- A. A violation of this policy does not occur when an Indian adult lights tobacco on education district property as a part of a traditional Indian spiritual or cultural ceremony. An American Indian student may carry a medicine pouch containing loose tobacco intended as observance of traditional spiritual or cultural practices. An Indian is a person who is a member of an Indian tribe as defined under Minnesota law.
- B. A violation of this policy does not occur when an adult non student possesses a tobacco or nicotine product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco-cessation product, as a tobacco-dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose. Nothing in this exception authorizes smoking or use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices on education district property or at off- campus events sponsored by the education district.
- C. An American Indian student or staff member may use tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar to conduct individual or group smudging in a public school. The process for

conducting smudging is determined by the building or site administrator. Smudging must be conducted under the direct supervision of an appropriate staff member, as determined by the building or site administrator.

**V. VAPING PREVENTION INSTRUCTION**

- A. The education district must provide vaping prevention instruction at least once to students in grades 6 through 8.
- B. The education district may use instructional materials based upon the Minnesota Department of Health’s school e-cigarette toolkit or may use other smoking prevention instructional materials with a focus on vaping and the use of electronic delivery devices and heated tobacco products. The instruction may be provided as part of the education district’s locally developed health standards.

**[NOTE: In addition, education districts may choose to require (a) evidence-based vaping prevention instruction to students in grades 9 through 12; and/or (b) a peer-to-peer education program to provide vaping prevention instruction.]**

**VI. ENFORCEMENT**

- A. All individuals on school premises shall adhere to this policy.
- B. Students who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to education district discipline procedures.
- C. Education district administrators and other education district personnel who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to education district discipline procedures.
- D. Education district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota or federal law, and education district policies.
- E. Persons who violate this tobacco-free policy may be referred to the building administration or other education district supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program at which the violation occurred.
- F. Education district administrators may call the local law enforcement agency to assist with enforcement of this policy. Smoking or use of any tobacco product in a public school is a violation of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and/or the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 and is a petty misdemeanor. A court injunction may be instituted against a repeated violator.
- G. No persons shall be discharged, refused to be hired, penalized, discriminated against, or in any manner retaliated against for exercising any right to a smoke-free environment provided by the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 or other law.

**VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY**

- A. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- B. The education district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.238 (Vaping Awareness and Prevention)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.08 (Smudging Permitted)



Minn. Stat. §§ 144.411-144.417 (Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.685 (Sale of Tobacco to Persons Under Age 21)  
2007 Minn. Laws Ch. 82 (Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

## **425 STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORING**

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

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a staff development program and structure to carry out planning and reporting on staff development that supports improved student learning.

### **II. ADVISORY STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND SITE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAMS**

A. The education district board will establish an Advisory Staff Development Committee to develop a Staff Development Plan, assist Site Professional Development Teams in developing a site plan consistent with the goals of the Staff Development Plan, and evaluate staff development efforts at the site level.

1. The majority of the membership of the Advisory Staff Development Committee shall consist of teachers representing various grade levels, subject areas, and special education. The Committee also will include non teaching staff, parents, and administrators.
2. Members of the Advisory Staff Development Committee shall be appointed by the education district board. Committee members shall serve a two-year term<sup>1\*</sup> based upon nominations by board members, teachers, and paraprofessionals. The education district board shall appoint replacement members of the Advisory Staff Development Committee as soon as possible following the resignation, death, serious illness, or removal of a member from the Committee.

B. The education district board will establish the Site Professional Development Teams.

1. Members of the Site Professional Development Teams will be appointed by the education district board. Team members shall serve a two-year term\* based upon nominations by board members, teachers, and paraprofessionals. The education district board shall appoint replacement members of the Site Professional Development Teams as soon as possible following the resignation, death, serious illness, or removal of a member from the Team.
2. The majority of the Site Professional Development Teams shall be teachers representing various grade levels, subject areas, and special education.

### **III. DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will develop a Staff Development Plan that will be reviewed and subject to approval by the education district board twice a year.<sup>2\*</sup>

B. The Staff Development Plan must contain the following elements:

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<sup>1\*</sup> This time period may be changed to accommodate individual school district needs.

1. Staff development outcomes that are consistent with the education outcomes as may be determined periodically by the education district board;

***[Note: The board-determined education outcomes for your district could be inserted here.]***

2. The means to achieve the Staff Development outcomes;
3. The procedures for evaluating progress at each school site toward meeting educational outcomes consistent with relicensure requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.187;
4. Ongoing staff development activities that contribute toward continuous improvement in achievement of the following goals:
  - a. Improve student achievement of state and local education standards in all areas of the curriculum, including areas of regular academic and applied and experiential learning, by using research-based best practices methods;
  - b. Effectively meet the needs of a diverse student population, including at-risk children, children with disabilities, English learners, and gifted children, within the regular classroom, applied and experiential learning settings, and other settings;
  - c. Provide an inclusive curriculum for a racially, ethnically, linguistically, and culturally diverse student population that is consistent with state education diversity rule and the district's education diversity plan;
  - d. Improve staff collaboration and develop mentoring and peer coaching programs for teachers new to the school or district;
  - e. Effectively teach and model violence prevention policy and curriculum that address early intervention alternatives, issues of harassment, and teach nonviolent alternatives for conflict resolution;
  - f. Effectively deliver digital and blended learning and curriculum and engage students with technology; and
  - g. Provide teachers and other members of site-based management teams with appropriate management and financial management skills.
5. The Staff Development Plan also must:
  - a. Support stable and productive professional communities achieved through ongoing and schoolwide progress and growth in teaching practice;
  - b. Emphasize coaching, professional learning communities, classroom action research, and other job-embedded models;
  - c. Maintain a strong subject matter focus premised on students' learning goals consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.125;
  - d. Ensure specialized preparation and learning about issues related to teaching English learners and students with special needs by focusing on long-term systemic efforts to improve educational services and opportunities and raise student achievement; and
  - e. Reinforce national and state standards of effective teaching practice.

6. Staff development activities must:
  - a. Focus on the school classroom and research-based strategies that improve student learning;
  - b. Provide opportunities for teachers to practice and improve their instructional skills over time;
  - c. Provide opportunities for teachers to use student data as part of their daily work to increase student achievement;
  - d. Enhance teacher content knowledge and instructional skills, including to accommodate the delivery of digital and blended learning and curriculum and engage students with technology;
  - e. Align with state and local academic standards;
  - f. Provide opportunities to build professional relationships, foster collaboration among principals and staff who provide instruction, and provide opportunities for teacher-to-teacher mentoring;
  - g. Align with the plan, if any, of the district or site for an alternative teacher professional pay system;
  - h. Provide teachers of English learners, including English as a second language, and content teachers with differentiated instructional strategies critical for ensuring students long-term academic success, the means to effectively use assessment data on the academic literacy, oral academic language, and English language development of English learners, and skills to support native and English language development across the curriculum; and
  - i. Provide opportunities for staff to learn about current workforce trends, the connections between workforce trends and postsecondary education, and training options, including career and technical education options.
7. Staff development activities may include curriculum development and curriculum training programs and activities that provide teachers and other members of site-based teams training to enhance team performance.
8. The education district may implement other staff development activities required by law and activities associated with professional teacher compensation models.

***[Note: To the extent the education district board offers K-12 teachers the opportunity for more staff development training under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.40, Subdivisions. 7 and 7a, or Minnesota Statutes section 122A.41, subdivisions. 4 and 4a, such additional days of staff development should include peer mentoring, peer gathering, continuing education, professional development, or other training which enable teachers to achieve the staff development outcomes enumerated above in Section III.B.4.]***

- C. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will assist Site Professional Development Teams in developing a site plan consistent with the goals and outcomes of the Staff Development Plan.
- D. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will evaluate staff development efforts at

the site level and will report to the education district board on a quarterly basis<sup>3\*</sup> the extent to which staff at the site have met the outcomes of the Staff Development Plan.

- E. In addition to developing a Staff Development Plan, the Staff Development Advisory Committee also must develop teacher mentoring programs for teachers new to the profession or education district, including teaching residents, teachers of color, teachers who are American Indian, teachers in license shortage areas, teachers with special needs, or experienced teachers in need of peer coaching. Teacher mentoring programs must be included in or aligned with the education district's teacher evaluation and peer review processes under Minnesota Statutes, sections 122A.40, subdivision 8 or 122A.41, subdivision 5.
- F. The Advisory Staff Development Committee shall assist the education district in preparing any reports required by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) relating to staff development or teacher mentoring including, but not limited to, the reports referenced in Section VII. below.

#### **IV. DUTIES OF THE SITE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

- A. Each Site Professional Development Team shall develop a site plan, consistent with the goals of the Staff Development Plan. The education district board will review the site plans for consistency with the Staff Development Plan twice a year.\*
- B. The Site Professional Development Team must demonstrate to the education district board the extent to which staff at the site have met the outcomes of the Staff Development Plan. The actual reports to the education district board can be made by the Advisory Staff Development Committee to avoid duplication of effort.
- C. If the education district board determines that staff development outcomes are not being met, it may withhold a portion of the initial allocation of revenue referenced in Section V. below.

#### **V. STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

- A. Unless the education district is in statutory operating debt or a majority of the education district board and a majority of its licensed teachers annually vote to waive the requirement to reserve basic revenue for staff development, the education district will reserve an amount equal to at least two percent of its basic revenue for: (1) teacher development and evaluation under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.40, subdivision 8 or 122A.41, subdivision 5; (2) principal development and evaluation under section 123B.147, subdivision. 3; (3) professional development under section 122A.60; (4) in-service education for programs under section 120B.22, subdivision 2; and (5) teacher mentorship under section 122A.70, subdivision 1. . To the extent extra funds remain, staff development revenue may be used for development plans, including plans for challenging instructional activities and experiences under section 122A.60, and for curriculum development and programs, other in-service education, teacher's workshops, teacher conferences, the cost of substitute teachers for staff development purposes, preservice and in-service education for special education professionals and paraprofessionals, and other related costs for staff development efforts. The education district also may use the revenue reserved for staff development for grants to the education district's teachers to pay for coursework and training leading to certification as either a college in the schools teacher or a concurrent enrollment teacher. To receive a grant, the teacher must be enrolled in a program that includes coursework and training focused on teaching a core subject.
- B. The education district may, in its discretion, expend an additional amount of

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<sup>3\*</sup> This time period may be changed to accommodate individual school district needs.

unreserved revenue for staff development based on its needs.

- C. Release time provided for teachers to supervise students on field trips and school activities, or independent tasks not associated with enhancing the teacher's knowledge and instructional skills, such as preparing report cards, calculating grades, or organizing classroom materials, may not be counted as staff development time that is financed with staff development reserved revenue under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.61.

## **VI. PROCEDURE FOR USE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**

- A. On a yearly<sup>4\*</sup> basis, the Advisory Staff Development Committee, with the assistance of the Site Professional Development Teams, shall prepare a projected budget setting forth proposals for allocating staff development and mentoring funds reserved for each school site. Such budgets shall include, but not be limited to, projections as to the cost of building site training programs, costs of individual staff seminars, and cost of substitutes.
- B. Upon approval of the budget by the education district board, the Advisory Committee shall be responsible for monitoring the use of such funds in accordance with the Staff Development Plan and budget. The requested use of staff development funds must meet or make progress toward the goals and objectives of the Staff Development Plan. All costs/expenditures will be reviewed by the education district board and/or executive director for consistency with the Staff Development Plan on a quarterly basis.\*
- C. Individual requests from staff for leave to attend staff development activities shall be submitted and reviewed according to education district policy, staff procedures, contractual agreement, and the effect on education district operations. Failure to timely submit such requests may be cause for denial of the request.
- D. The education district may use staff development revenue, special grant programs established by the legislature, or another funding source to pay a stipend to a mentor who may be a current or former teacher who has taught at least three (3) years and is not on an improvement plan. Other initiatives using such funds, or funds available under Minnesota Statutes, sections 124D.861 and 124D.862, may include:
  - 1. additional stipends as incentives to mentors of color or who are American Indian;
  - 2. financial supports for professional learning community affinity groups across schools within and between districts for teachers from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to come together throughout the school year;
  - 3. programs for induction aligned with the education district or school mentorship program during the first three (3) years of teaching, especially for teachers from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; or
  - 4. grants supporting licensed and nonlicensed educator participation in professional development, such as workshops and graduate courses, related to increasing student achievement for students of color and American Indian students in order to close opportunity and achievement gaps.

To the extent the education district receives a grant for any of the above purposes, it will negotiate additional retention strategies or protection from unrequested leave of absences in the beginning years of employment for teachers of color and teachers who

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<sup>4\*</sup> This time period may be changed to accommodate individual school district needs.

are American Indian. Retention strategies may include providing financial incentives for teachers of color and teachers who are American Indian to work in the school or district for at least five (5) years and placing American Indian educators at sites with other American Indian educators and educators of color at sites with other educators of color to reduce isolation and increase opportunity for collegial support.

## **VII. PARAPROFESSIONALS, TITLE I AIDES, AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT STAFF**

- A. The education district must provide a minimum of eight hours of paid orientation or professional development annually to all paraprofessionals, Title I aides, and other instructional support staff. Six of the eight hours must be completed before the first instructional day of the school year or within 30 days of hire. *The education district must consult the exclusive representative for employees receiving this training before creating or planning the training required under this section.*
- B. The orientation or professional development must be relevant to the employee's occupation and may include collaboration time with classroom teachers and planning for the school year.
- C. For paraprofessionals who provide direct support to students, at least 50 percent of the professional development or orientation must be dedicated to meeting the requirements of this section. Professional development for paraprofessionals may also address the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.363, subdivision 3.
- D. An education district administrator must provide an annual certification of compliance with this requirement to the MDE Commissioner.
- E. *For the 2024-2025 school year only, an education district may reduce the hours of training required in paragraphs (b) to (e) to a minimum of six hours and must pay for paraprofessional test materials and testing fees for any paraprofessional employed by the education district during the 2023-2024 school year who has not yet successfully completed the paraprofessional assessment or met the requirements of the paraprofessional competency grid.*

## **VII. REPORTING**

- A. The education district and site staff development committee shall prepare a report of the previous fiscal year's staff development activities and expenditures as part of the education district's ~~world's best workforce report~~ *comprehensive achievement and civic readiness*.
  - 1. The report must include assessment and evaluation data indicating progress toward district and site staff development goals based on teaching and learning outcomes, including the percentage of teachers and other staff involved in instruction who participate in effective staff development activities.
  - 2. The report will provide a breakdown of expenditures for:
    - a. Curriculum development and curriculum training programs;
    - b. Staff development training models, workshops, and conferences; and
    - c. The cost of releasing teachers or providing substitute teachers for staff development purposes.

The report also must indicate whether the expenditures were incurred at the district level or the school site level and whether the school site expenditures were made possible by the grants to school sites that demonstrate exemplary use of allocated staff development revenue. These expenditures must be reported using the uniform financial and accounting and reporting standards

(UFARS).

3. The report will be signed by the executive director and staff development chair.
- B. To the extent the education district receives a grant for mentorship activities described in Section V.D., by June 30 of each year after receiving a grant, the site staff development committee must submit a report to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board on program efforts that describes mentoring and induction activities and assesses the impact of these programs on teacher effectiveness and retention.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.41 (Length of School Year; Days of Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.415 (Extended School Calendar)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.22, Subd. 2 (Violence Prevention Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.642 (Paraprofessional Training)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.187 (Expiration and Renewal)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subds. 7, 7a and 8 (Employment; Contracts; Termination - Additional Staff Development and Salary)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41, Subds. 4, 4a and 5 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions - Additional Staff Development and Salary)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.60 (Staff Development Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.70 (Teacher Mentorship and Retention of Effective Teachers)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.61 (Reserved Revenue for Staff Development)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, subd. 3 (Principals)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.861 (Achievement and Integration for Minnesota)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.862 (Achievement and Integration Revenue)  
Minn. Stat. § 126C.10, Subds. 2 and 2b (General Education Revenue)  
Minn. Stat. § 126C.13, Subd. 5 (General Education Levy and Aid)

**Cross References:** None.



## 503 STUDENT ATTENDANCE

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

### I. PURPOSE

- A. The education district board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.
- B. This policy also recognizes that class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by the student, parent or guardian, teacher, and administrators. This policy will assist students in attending class.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

#### A. Responsibilities

##### 1. Student's Responsibility

It is the student's right to be in school. It is also the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes and study halls every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class or study hall. Finally, it is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

##### 2. Parent or Guardian's Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the education district in the event of a student absence, and to work cooperatively with the education district and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

##### 3. Teacher's Responsibility

It is the teacher's responsibility to take daily attendance and to maintain accurate attendance records in each assigned class and study hall. It is also the teacher's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures

governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly. It is also the teacher's responsibility to provide any student who has been absent with any missed assignments upon request. Finally, it is the teacher's responsibility to work cooperatively with the student's parent or guardian and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

4. Administrator's Responsibility

- a. It is the administrator's responsibility to require students to attend all assigned classes and study halls. It is also the administrator's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly to all students, to maintain accurate records on student attendance, and to prepare a list of the previous day's absences stating the status of each. Finally, it is the administrator's responsibility to inform the student's parent or guardian of the student's attendance and to work cooperatively with them and the student to solve attendance problems.
- b. In accordance with the Minnesota Compulsory Instruction Law, Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, the students of the education district are REQUIRED to attend all assigned classes and/or study halls every day school is in session, unless the student has been excused by the education district board from attendance because the student has already completed state and school standards required to graduate from high education, has withdrawn, or has a valid excuse for absence.

B. Attendance Procedures

Attendance procedures shall be presented to the education district board for review and approval. When approved by the education district board, the attendance procedures will be included as an addendum to this policy.

1. Excused Absences

- a. A parent, guardian, or other person having control of a child may apply to the education district to have the child excused from attendance for the whole or any part of the time school is in session during any school year. Application may be made to any member of the board, a truant officer, a principal, or the executive director. A note from a physician or a licensed mental health professional stating that the child cannot attend school is a valid excuse.

- a b. To be considered an excused absence, the student's parent or legal guardian may be asked to verify, in writing, the reason for the student's absence from school.
- c. The board of the district in which the child resides may approve the application under subparagraph (a) above upon a legitimate exception being demonstrated to the satisfaction of that board.

bd. Legitimate Exceptions

The following reasons shall be sufficient to constitute excused absences:

- (1) that the child's physical or mental health is such as to prevent attendance at the school or application to study for the period required, which includes:
  - a. child illness, medical, dental, orthodontic, or counseling appointments; including appointments conducted through telehealth;
  - b. family emergencies;
  - c. the death or serious illness or funeral of an immediate family member;
  - d. active duty in any military branch of the United States;
  - e. the child has a condition that requires ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis; or
  - f. other exemptions included in this attendance policy.
- (2). that the child has already completed state and district standards required for graduation from high school; or
- (3). that it is the wish of the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the child, that the child attend for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate three hours in any week, instruction conducted by a Tribal spiritual or cultural advisor, or a school for religious instruction conducted and maintained by a church, or association of churches, or any Sunday school association incorporated under the laws of this state, or any auxiliary thereof. This instruction must be conducted and maintained in a place other than a public school building, and it must not, in whole or in part, be

conducted and maintained at public expense. A child may be absent from school on days that the child attends upon instruction according to this clause .

- ~~(2) Serious illness in the student's immediate family.¶~~
- ~~(3) A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.¶~~
- ~~(4) Medical, dental, or orthodontic treatment, or a counseling appointment.¶~~
- ~~(5) Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.¶~~
- ~~(6) Religious observance.¶~~
- ~~(7) Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.¶~~
- ~~(8) Official education district field trip or other education district-sponsored outing.¶~~
- ~~(9) Removal of a student pursuant to a suspension. Suspensions are to be handled as excused absences and students will be permitted to complete make-up work.¶~~
- ~~(10) Family emergencies.¶~~
- ~~(11) Active duty in any military branch of the United States.¶~~
- ~~(12) A student's condition that requires ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis.~~

*[Note: In 2024, the Minnesota legislature amended Minnesota Statutes, section 102A.22, subdivision 12. the legitimate exceptions set forth above quote this statute. Minnesota State law provides that the education district board may include other exemptions in the education district's attendance policy. See Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 12. When considering whether to add other exemptions, school district boards should consider the intent of the compulsory attendance law, which recognizes the educational value of regular attendance and class participation, and whether the proposed exemption is consistent with the intent of the law.]*

c. Consequences of Excused Absences

- (1) Students whose absences are excused are required to make

up all assignments missed or to complete alternative assignments as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.

- (2) Work missed because of absence must be made up within 2 days from the date of the student's return to school. Any work not completed within this period shall result in "no credit" for the missed assignment. However, the building administrator or the classroom teacher may extend the time allowed for completion of make-up work in the case of an extended illness or other extenuating circumstances.

## 2. Unexcused Absences

a. The following are examples of absences which will not be excused:

- (1) Truancy. An absence by a student which was not approved by the parent and/or the education district.
- (2) Any absence in which the student failed to comply with any reporting requirements of the education district's attendance procedures.
- (3) Work at home.
- (4) Work at a business, except under an education district-sponsored work release program.
- (5) Vacations with family.
- (6) Personal trips to school or colleges.
- (7) Absences resulting from cumulated unexcused tardies (5 tardies equal one unexcused absence).
- (8) Any other absence not included under the attendance procedures set out in this policy.

## b. Consequences of Unexcused Absences

- (1) Absences resulting from official suspension will be handled in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56.
- (2) Days during which a student is suspended from school shall

not be counted in a student's total cumulated unexcused absences.

- (3) In cases of recurring unexcused absences, the administration may also request the county attorney to file a petition with the juvenile court, pursuant to Minnesota statutes.

C. Tardiness

1. Definition: Students are expected to be in their assigned area at designated times. Failure to do so constitutes tardiness.

2. Procedures for Reporting Tardiness

- a. Students tardy at the start of school must report to the education district office for an admission slip.
- b. Tardiness between periods will be handled by the teacher.

3. Excused Tardiness

Valid excuses for tardiness are:

- a. Illness.
- b. Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
- c. A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.
- d. Medical, dental, orthodontic, or mental health treatment.
- e. Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.
- f. Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- g. Any tardiness for which the student has been excused in writing by an administrator or faculty member.

4. Unexcused Tardiness

- a. An unexcused tardiness is failing to be in an assigned area at the designated time class period commences without a valid excuse.
- b. 5 unexcused tardies are equivalent to one unexcused absence.

D. Participation in Extracurricular Activities and Education District-Sponsored On-the-Job Training Programs

1. This policy applies to all students involved in any extracurricular activity scheduled either during or outside the school day and any education district-sponsored on-the-job training programs.
2. School-initiated absences will be accepted and participation permitted.
3. A student may not participate in any activity or program if he or she has an unexcused absence from any class during the day.
4. If a student is suspended from any class, he or she may not participate in any activity or program that day.
5. If a student is absent from school due to medical reasons, he or she must present a physician's statement or a statement from the student's parent or guardian clearing the student for participation that day. The note must be presented to the coach or advisor before the student participates in the activity or program.

III. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable efforts will be made by the education district to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused for a curricular activity for a religious observance. Requests for accommodations should be directed to the building principal.

~~III~~IV. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

Copies of this policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year. This policy shall also be available upon request in each assistant director's office.

~~IV~~V. REQUIRED REPORTING

A. Continuing Truant

Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school district, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

1. Three days if the child is in elementary school; or
2. Three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

B. Reporting Responsibility

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 provides that the school district attendance officer or other designated school district official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means, of the following:

1. That the child is truant;
2. That the parent or guardian should notify the education district if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;
3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child at school pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;
4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;
5. That alternative educational programs and services may be available in the child's enrolling or resident district;
6. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate education district personnel to discuss solutions to the child's truancy;
7. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260;
8. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 260C.201; and

C. Habitual Truant

1. A habitual truant is a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.
2. An education district attendance officer shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent or legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A.



- Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.05 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.30 (Attendance Officers)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.34 (Violations; Penalties)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 (Notice to Parent or Guardian When Child is a Continuing Truant)  
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 19 (Habitual Truant Defined)  
Minn. Stat. § 260C.201 (Dispositions; Children in Need of Protection or Services or Neglected and in Foster Care)  
*Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565, 95 S.Ct. 729 (1975)  
*Slocum v. Holton Board of Education*, 429 N.W.2d 607 (Mich. App. Ct. 1988)  
*Campbell v. Board of Education of New Milford*, 475 A.2d 289 (Conn. 1984)  
*Hamer v. Board of Education of Township High School District No. 113*, 66 Ill. App.3d 7, 383 N.E.2d 231 (1978)  
*Gutierrez v. School District R-1*, 585 P.2d 935 (Co. Ct. App. 1978)  
*Knight v. Board of Education*, 38 Ill. App. 3d 603, 348 N.E.2d 299 (1976)  
*Dorsey v. Bale*, 521 S.W.2d 76 (Ky. 1975)
- Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

## **506 STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

***[Note: Education districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the education district's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the education district's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The education district will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The education district board recognizes that individual responsibility and mutual respect are essential components of the educational process. The education district board further recognizes that nurturing the maturity of each student is of primary importance and is closely linked with the balance that must be maintained between authority and self-discipline as the individual progresses from a child's dependence on authority to the more mature behavior of self-control.

All students are entitled to learn and develop in a setting which promotes respect of self, others, and property. Proper positive discipline can only result from an environment which provides options and stresses student self-direction, decision-making, and responsibility. Schools can function effectively only with internal discipline based on mutual understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that maintains a climate in which learning can take place. Overall decorum affects student attitudes and influences student behavior. Proper student conduct is necessary to facilitate the education process and to create an atmosphere conducive to high student achievement.

Although this policy emphasizes the development of self-discipline, it is recognized that there are instances when it will be necessary to administer disciplinary measures. The position of the education district is that a fair and equitable district-wide student discipline policy will contribute to the quality of the student's educational experience. This discipline policy is adopted in accordance with and subject to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40-121A.56.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.55, the education district board, with the participation of education district administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents, community members, and such other individuals and organizations as appropriate, has developed this policy which governs student conduct and applies to all students of the education district.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Non Exclusionary disciplinary policies and practices" means policies and practices that are alternatives to dismissing a pupil from school, including but not limited to evidence-based positive behavior interventions and supports, social and emotional services, school-linked mental health services, counseling services, social work services, academic screening for Title 1 services or reading interventions, and

alternative education services. Non Exclusionary disciplinary policies and practices include but are not limited to the policies and practices under [Minnesota Statutes](#) sections 120B.12; 121A.575, clauses (1) and (2); 121A.031, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1); 121A.61, subdivision 3, paragraph (r); and 122A.627, clause (3).

- B. "Pupil withdrawal agreement" means a verbal or written agreement between a education district administrator or district administrator and a pupil's parent to withdraw a student from the education district to avoid expulsion or exclusion dismissal proceedings. The duration of the withdrawal agreement cannot be for more than a 12-month period.

#### **IV. POLICY**

- A. The education district board must establish uniform criteria for dismissal and adopt written policies and rules to effectuate the purposes of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. The policies must include non exclusionary disciplinary policies and practices consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 12, and must emphasize preventing dismissals through early detection of problems. The policies must be designed to address students' inappropriate behavior from recurring.
- B. The policies must recognize the continuing responsibility of the education district for the education of the pupil during the dismissal period.
- C. The education district is responsible for ensuring that alternative educational services, if the pupil wishes to take advantage of them, must be adequate to allow the pupil to make progress toward meeting the graduation standards adopted under Minnesota Statutes, section [120B.02](#) and help prepare the pupil for readmission in accordance with section Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.46, subdivision 5.
- D. For expulsion and exclusion dismissals and pupil withdrawal agreements as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 13:
  - 1. for a pupil who remains enrolled in the education district or is awaiting enrollment in a new district, the education district's continuing responsibility includes reviewing the pupil's schoolwork and grades on a quarterly basis to ensure the pupil is on track for readmission with the pupil's peers. The education district must communicate on a regular basis with the pupil's parent or guardian to ensure that the pupil is completing the work assigned through the alternative educational services as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 11. These services are required until the pupil enrolls in another school or returns to the same school;
  - 2. a pupil receiving school-based or school-linked mental health services in the education district under Minnesota Statutes, section 245.4889 continues to be eligible for those services until the pupil is enrolled in a new district; and
  - 3. the education district must provide to the pupil's parent or guardian information on accessing mental health services, including any free or sliding fee providers in the community. The information must also be posted on the education district website.

#### **V. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. The Education district Board. The education district board holds all education district personnel responsible for the maintenance of order within the education district and supports all personnel acting within the framework of this discipline policy.
- B. Executive director. The executive director shall establish guidelines and directives to carry out this policy, hold all education district personnel, students, and parents responsible for conforming to this policy, and support all education district personnel

performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The executive director shall also establish guidelines and directives for using the services of appropriate agencies for assisting students and parents. Any guidelines or directives established to implement this policy shall be submitted to the education district board for approval and shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

- C. Principal. The education district principal is given the responsibility and authority to formulate building rules and regulations necessary to enforce this policy, subject to final education district board approval. The principal shall give direction and support to all education district personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The principal shall consult with parents of students conducting themselves in a manner contrary to the policy. The principal shall also involve other professional employees in the disposition of Behavior referrals and shall make use of those agencies appropriate for assisting students and parents. A principal, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another.
- D. Teachers. All teachers shall be responsible for providing a well-planned teaching/learning environment and shall have primary responsibility for student conduct, with appropriate assistance from the administration. All teachers shall enforce the Code of Student Conduct. In exercising the teacher's lawful authority, a teacher may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another.
- E. Other Education District Personnel. All education district personnel shall be responsible for contributing to the atmosphere of mutual respect within the school. Their responsibilities relating to student behavior shall be as authorized and directed by the executive director. An education district employee, school bus driver, or other agent of an education district, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student to prevent bodily harm or death to the student or another. A school employee, which does not include a school resource officer, shall not use prone restraint and shall not inflict any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a student's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a student's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a student's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a student's torso.  
  

For the purpose for Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force), a school resource officer, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, sections 626.8482, subdivision 1, paragraph 2 is not an education district employee or agent of the education district
- F. Parents or Legal Guardians. Parents and guardians shall be held responsible for the behavior of their children as determined by law and community practice. They are expected to cooperate with education district authorities and to participate regarding the behavior of their children.
- G. Students. All students shall be held individually responsible for their behavior and for knowing and obeying the Code of Student Conduct and this policy.
- H. Community Members. Members of the community are expected to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere in which rights and duties are effectively acknowledged and fulfilled.
- I. Reasonable Force Reports
  - 1. The education district must report data on its use of any reasonable force used on a student with a disability to correct or restrain the student to prevent

imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another that is consistent with the definition of physical holding under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0941, paragraph (c), as outlined in section 125A.0942, subdivision 3, paragraph (b).

2. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the education district must report annually by July 15, in a form and manner determined by the MDE Commissioner, data from the prior school year about any reasonable force used on a general education student to correct or restrain the student to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another that is consistent with the definition of physical holding under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0941, paragraph (c).
3. Any reasonable force used under Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.582; 609.06, subdivision 1; and 609.379 which intends to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement where body contact is the only source of physical restraint or confines a child alone in a room from which egress is barred shall be reported to the Minnesota Department of Education as a restrictive procedure, including physical holding or seclusion used by an unauthorized or untrained staff person.

## **VI. STUDENT RIGHTS**

All students have the right to an education and the right to learn.

## **VII. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

All students have the responsibility:

- A. For their behavior and for knowing and obeying all school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures;
- B. To attend school daily, except when excused, and to be on time to all classes and other school functions;
- C. To pursue and attempt to complete the courses of study prescribed by the state and local school authorities;
- D. To make necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school;
- E. To assist the school staff in maintaining a safe school for all students;
- F. To be aware of all school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, including those in this policy, and to conduct themselves in accord with them;
- G. To assume that until a rule or policy is waived, altered, or repealed, it is in full force and effect;
- H. To be aware of and comply with federal, state, and local laws;
- I. To volunteer information in disciplinary cases should they have any knowledge relating to such cases and to cooperate with school staff as appropriate;
- J. To respect and maintain the education district's property and the property of others;
- K. To dress and groom in a manner which meets standards of safety and health and common standards of decency and which is consistent with applicable education district policy;
- L. To avoid inaccuracies in student newspapers or publications and refrain from indecent

or obscene language;

M. To conduct themselves in an appropriate physical or verbal manner; and

N. To recognize and respect the rights of others.

#### **VIII. CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

A. The following are examples of unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action by the education district. These examples are not intended to be an exclusive list. Any student who engages in any of these activities shall be disciplined in accordance with this policy. This policy applies to all school buildings, school grounds, and education district property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds; education district-sponsored activities or trips; school bus stops; school buses, education district vehicles, education district contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for education district purposes; the area of entrance or departure from education district premises or events; and all education district-related functions, education district-sponsored activities, events, or trips. Education district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action at these locations and events, the education district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the education district or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or employees.

1. Violations against property including, but not limited to, damage to or destruction of education district property or the property of others, failure to compensate for damage or destruction of such property, arson, breaking and entering, theft, robbery, possession of stolen property, extortion, trespassing, unauthorized usage, or vandalism;
2. The use of profanity or obscene language, or the possession of obscene materials;
3. Gambling, including, but not limited to, playing a game of chance for stakes;
4. Violation of the education district's Hazing Prohibition Policy;
5. Attendance problems including, but not limited to, truancy, absenteeism, tardiness, skipping classes, or leaving school grounds without permission;
6. Violation of the education district's Student Attendance Policy;
7. Opposition to authority using physical force or violence;
8. Using, possessing, or distributing tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic cigarettes, or tobacco paraphernalia in violation of the education district's Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices Policy;
9. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances or look-alike substances;
10. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances (except as prescribed by a physician), or look-alike substances (these prohibitions include medical marijuana or medical cannabis, even when prescribed by a physician, and one student sharing

prescription medication with another student);

11. Using, possessing, or distributing items or articles that are illegal or harmful to persons or property including, but not limited to, drug paraphernalia;
12. Using, possessing, or distributing weapons, or look-alike weapons or other dangerous objects;
13. Violation of the education district's Weapons Policy;
14. Violation of the education district's Violence Prevention Policy;
15. Possession of ammunition including, but not limited to, bullets or other projectiles designed to be used in or as a weapon;
16. Possession, use, or distribution of explosives or any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose or intended use of which is to function as an explosive;
17. Possession, use, or distribution of fireworks or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation;
18. Using an ignition device, including a butane or disposable lighter or matches, inside an educational building and under circumstances where there is a risk of fire, except where the device is used in a manner authorized by the school;
19. Violation of any local, state, or federal law as appropriate;
20. Acts disruptive of the educational process, including, but not limited to, disobedience, disruptive or disrespectful behavior, defiance of authority, cheating, insolence, insubordination, failure to identify oneself, improper activation of fire alarms, or bomb threats;
21. Violation of the education district's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy;
22. Use of a cell phone in violation of the education district's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy;
23. Violation of school bus or transportation rules or the education district's Student Transportation Safety Policy;
24. Violation of parking or school traffic rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, driving on education district property in such a manner as to endanger persons or property;
25. Violation of directives or guidelines relating to lockers or improperly gaining access to a school locker;
26. Violation of the education district's Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person Policy;
27. Violation of the education district's Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches Policy;
28. Possession or distribution of slanderous, libelous, or pornographic materials;
29. Violation of the education district's Bullying Prohibition Policy;
30. Student attire or personal grooming which creates a danger to health or safety

or creates a disruption to the educational process, including clothing which bears a message which is lewd, vulgar, or obscene, apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors, or clothing containing objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group or which connotes gang membership;

31. Criminal activity;
32. Falsification of any records, documents, notes, or signatures;
33. Tampering with, changing, or altering records or documents of the education district by any method including, but not limited to, computer access or other electronic means;
34. Scholastic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a school assignment or test, plagiarism, or collusion, including the use of picture phones or other technology to accomplish this end;
35. Impertinent or disrespectful words, symbols, acronyms, or language, whether oral or written, related to teachers or other education district personnel;
36. Violation of the education district's Harassment and Violence Policy;
37. Actions, including fighting or any other assaultive behavior, which causes or could cause injury to the student or other persons or which otherwise endangers the health, safety, or welfare of teachers, students, other education district personnel, or other persons;
38. Committing an act which inflicts great bodily harm upon another person, even though accidental or a result of poor judgment;
39. Violations against persons, including, but not limited to, assault or threatened assault, fighting, harassment, interference or obstruction, attack with a weapon, or look-alike weapon, sexual assault, illegal or inappropriate sexual conduct, or indecent exposure;
40. Verbal assaults or verbally abusive behavior including, but not limited to, use of words, symbols, acronyms, or language, whether oral or written, that are discriminatory, abusive, obscene, threatening, intimidating, degrading to other people, or threatening to education district property;
41. Physical or verbal threats including, but not limited to, the staging or reporting of dangerous or hazardous situations that do not exist;
42. Inappropriate, abusive, threatening, or demeaning actions based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation;
43. Violation of the education district's Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees Policy;
44. Violation of the education district's one-to-one device rules and regulations;
45. Violation of school rules, regulations, policies, or procedures, including, but not limited to, those policies specifically enumerated in this policy;
46. Other acts, as determined by the education district, which are disruptive of the educational process or dangerous or detrimental to the student or other students, education district personnel or surrounding persons, or which



violate the rights of others or which damage or endanger the property of the school, or which otherwise interferes with or obstruct the mission or operations of the education district or the safety or welfare of students or employees.

## **IX. RECESS AND OTHER BREAKS**

- A. "Recess detention" means excluding or excessively delaying a student from participating in a scheduled recess period as a consequence for student behavior. Recess detention does not include, among other things, providing alternative recess at the student's choice.
- B. The education district is encouraged to ensure student access to structured breaks from the demands of school and to support teachers, principals, and other education district staff in their efforts to use evidence-based approaches to reduce exclusionary forms of discipline.
- C. The education district must not use recess detention unless:
  - 1. a student causes or is likely to cause serious physical harm to other students or staff;
  - 2. the student's parent or guardian specifically consents to the use of recess detention; or
  - 3. for students receiving special education services, the student's individualized education program team has determined that withholding recess is appropriate based on the individualized needs of the student.
- D. The education district must not withhold recess from a student based on incomplete schoolwork.
- E. The education district must require education district staff to make a reasonable attempt to notify a parent or guardian within 24 hours of using recess detention.
- F. The education district must compile information on each recess detention at the end of each school year, including the student's age, grade, gender, race or ethnicity, and special education status. This information must be available to the public upon request. The education district is encouraged to use the data in professional development promoting the use of non exclusionary discipline.
- G. The education district must not withhold or excessively delay a student's participation in scheduled mealtimes. This section does not alter a district or school's existing responsibilities under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.111 or other state or federal law.

## **X. DISCIPLINARY ACTION OPTIONS**

The general policy of the education district is to utilize progressive discipline to the extent reasonable and appropriate based upon the specific facts and circumstances of student misconduct. The specific form of discipline chosen in a particular case is solely within the discretion of the education district. At a minimum, violation of the education district code of conduct, rules, regulations, policies, or procedures will result in discussion of the violation and a verbal warning. The education district shall, however, impose more severe disciplinary sanctions for any violation, including exclusion or expulsion, if warranted by the student's misconduct, as determined by the education district. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Student conference with teacher, principal, counselor, or other education district personnel, and verbal warning;

- B. Confiscation by education district personnel and/or by law enforcement of any item, article, object, or thing, prohibited by, or used in the violation of, any education district policy, rule, regulation, procedure, or state or federal law. If confiscated by the education district, the confiscated item, article, object, or thing will be released only to the parent/guardian following the completion of any investigation or disciplinary action instituted or taken related to the violation.
- C. Parent contact;
- D. Parent conference;
- E. Removal from class;
- F. In-school suspension;
- G. Suspension from extracurricular activities;
- H. Detention or restriction of privileges;
- I. Loss of school privileges;
- J. In-school monitoring or revised class schedule;
- K. Referral to in-school support services;
- L. Referral to community resources or outside agency services;
- M. Financial restitution;
- N. Referral to police, other law enforcement agencies, or other appropriate authorities;
- O. A request for a petition to be filed in district court for juvenile delinquency adjudication;
- P. Out-of-school suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;
- Q. Preparation of an admission or readmission plan;
- R. Saturday school;
- S. Expulsion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;
- T. Exclusion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and/or
- U. Other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the education district.

**XI. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS**

- A. The teacher of record shall have the general control and government of the classroom. Teachers have the responsibility of attempting to modify disruptive student behavior by such means as conferring with the student, using positive reinforcement, assigning detention or other consequences, or contacting the student's parents. When such measures fail, or when the teacher determines it is otherwise appropriate based upon the student's conduct, the teacher shall have the authority to remove the student from class pursuant to the procedures established by this discipline policy. "Removal from class" and "removal" mean any actions taken by a teacher, principal, or other education district employee to prohibit a student from attending a class or activity for a period of time not to exceed five (5) days, pursuant to this discipline policy.

Grounds for removal from class shall include any of the following:

1. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, including conduct that interferes with a teacher's ability to teach or communicate effectively with students in a class or with the ability of other students to learn;
2. Willful conduct that endangers surrounding persons, including education district employees, the student or other students, or the property of the education district ;
3. Willful violation of any education district rules, regulations, policies or procedures, including the Code of Student Conduct in this policy; or
4. Other conduct, which in the discretion of the teacher or administration, requires removal of the student from class.

Such removal shall be for at least one (1) activity period or class period of instruction for a given course of study and shall not exceed five (5) such periods.

A student must be removed from class immediately if the student engages in assault or violent behavior. "Assault" is an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death; or the intentional infliction of, or attempt to inflict, bodily harm upon another.

- B. If a student is removed from class more than ten (10) times in a school year, the education district shall notify the parent or guardian of the student's tenth removal from class and make reasonable attempts to convene a meeting with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the problem that is causing the student to be removed from class.

***[Note: The following Sections C. - J. must be developed and inserted by each education district based upon individual district practices, procedures, and preferences. Education districts may consider developing and inserting procedures identified in Sections K-N.]***

**C. *Procedures for Removal of a Student From a Class.***

1. *Specify procedures to remove a student from a class to be followed by a teacher, education district administrator, or other education district employee;*
2. *Specify required approvals necessary;*
3. *Specify paperwork and reporting procedures.*

**D. *Period of Time for which a Student may be Removed from a Class (may not exceed five (5) class periods for a violation of a rule of conduct)***

1. The removal from class shall be for a period of time deemed appropriate by the principal, in consultation with the teacher.

**E. *Responsibility for and Custody of a Student Removed from Class.***

1. *Designation of where student is to go when removed;*
2. *Designation of how student is to get to designated destination;*
3. *Whether student must be accompanied;*
4. *Statement of what student is to do when and while removed;*

5. *Designation of who has control over and responsibility for student after removal from class.*

**F. Procedures for Return of a Student to a Specific Class from Which the Student was Removed.**

1. *Specification of procedures;*
2. *Actions or approvals required such as notes, conferences, readmission plans.*

**G. Procedures for Notifying a Student and the Student's Parents or Guardian of Violation of the Rules of Conduct and of Resulting Disciplinary Actions;**

1. *Specification of Procedures;*
2. *Actions or approvals required, such as notes, conferences, readmission plans.*

**H. Disabled Students; Special Provisions.**

1. *Procedures for consideration of whether there is a need for further assessment;*
2. *Procedures for consideration of whether there is a need for a review of the adequacy of the current Individualized Education Program (IEP) of a disabled student who is removed from class or disciplined; and*
3. *Any procedures determined appropriate for referring students in need of special education services to those services.*

**I. Procedures for Detecting and Addressing Chemical Abuse Problems of Students While on Education district Premises.**

1. *Establishment of a chemical abuse pre assessment team pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.26;*
2. *Establishment of teacher reporting procedures to the chemical abuse pre assessment team pursuant to Minnesota StatutesN section 121A.29.*

**J. Procedures for Immediate and Appropriate Interventions Tied to Violations of the Code of Student Conduct.**

**K. Any Procedures Determined Appropriate for Encouraging Early Involvement of Parents or Guardians in Attempts to Improve a Student's Behavior.**

**L. Any Procedures Determined Appropriate for Encouraging Early Detection of Behavioral Problems.**

**M. Any Procedures Determined Appropriate for Referring a Student in Need of Special Education Services to Those Services; and**

**N. Any Procedures Determined Appropriate for Ensuring Victims of Bullying who Respond with Behavior not Allowed under the Education district 's Behavior Policies have Access to a Remedial Response, Consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.031.**

**O. *Unscheduled Student Removal From Class***

*A public school is encouraged to adopt a school policy on parental notification for unscheduled student removal from class. The public school must consult with child abuse prevention experts to incorporate best practices into the*

*school policy. A public school with a policy on parental notification must include the policy in the employee handbook and disseminate information to school staff regarding child abuse prevention in a school setting.*

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision, which does not require a school board to adopt policy language. School districts may determine whether to adopt policy language.]**

## **XII. DISMISSAL**

- A. "Dismissal" means the denial of the current educational program to any student, including exclusion, expulsion, and suspension. Dismissal does not include removal from class.

The education district shall not deny due process or equal protection of the law to any student involved in a dismissal proceeding which may result in suspension, exclusion or expulsion.

The education district shall not dismiss any student without attempting to use non exclusionary disciplinary policies and procedures before dismissal proceedings or pupil withdrawal agreements, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property.

- B. Violations leading to suspension, based upon severity, may also be grounds for actions leading to expulsion, and/or exclusion. A student may be dismissed on any of the following grounds:

1. Willful violation of any reasonable education district board regulation, including those found in this policy;
2. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, or the ability of education district personnel to perform their duties, or education district sponsored extracurricular activities; or
3. Willful conduct that endangers the student or other students, or surrounding persons, including education district employees, or property of the education district.

- C. Disciplinary Dismissals Prohibited

1. A pupil enrolled in the following is not subject to dismissals under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act:
  - a. a preschool or pre kindergarten program, including an early childhood family education, school readiness, ~~school readiness plus~~, voluntary prekindergarten, Head Start, or other school-based preschool or prekindergarten program; or
  - b. kindergarten through Grade 3.
2. This section does not apply to a dismissal from school for less than one school day, except as provided under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 125A and federal law for a student receiving special education services.
3. Notwithstanding this section, expulsions and exclusions may be used only after resources outlined under Nonexclusionary discipline have been exhausted, and only in circumstances where there is an ongoing serious safety threat to the child or others.

D. Suspension Procedures

1. "Suspension" means an action by the education district administration, under rules promulgated by the education district board, prohibiting a student from attending school for a period of no more than ten (10) school days; provided, however, if a suspension is longer than five (5) school days, the suspending administrator shall provide the executive director with a reason for the longer term of suspension. This definition does not apply to dismissal for one (1) school day or less where a student with a disability does not receive regular or special education instruction during that dismissal period.
2. Education district administration must allow a suspended pupil the opportunity to complete all school work assigned during the period of the pupil's suspension and to receive full credit for satisfactorily completing the assignments. The education district principal or other person having administrative control of the education district building or program is encouraged to designate a district or education district employee as a liaison to work with the pupil's teachers to allow the suspended pupil to (1) receive timely course materials and other information, and (2) complete daily and weekly assignments and receive teachers' feedback.
3. If a student's total days of removal from school exceed ten (10) cumulative days in a school year, the education district shall make reasonable attempts to convene a meeting with the student and the student's parent or guardian before subsequently removing the student from school and, with the permission of the parent or guardian, arrange for a mental health screening for the student at the parent or guardian's expense. The purpose of this meeting is to attempt to determine the student's need for assessment or other services or whether the parent or guardian should have the student assessed or diagnosed to determine whether the student needs treatment for a mental health disorder.
4. The definition of suspension under Minnesota Statutes, section [121A.41, subdivision 10](#), does not apply to a student's dismissal from school for one school day or less, except as provided under federal law for a student with a disability. Each suspension action may include a readmission plan. The plan shall include, where appropriate, a provision for implementing alternative educational services upon readmission which must not be used to extend the current suspension. A readmission plan must not obligate a parent or guardian to provide psychotropic drugs to their student as a condition of readmission. Education district administration must not use the refusal of a parent or guardian to consent to the administration of psychotropic drugs to their student or to consent to a psychiatric evaluation, screening, or examination of the student as a ground, by itself, to prohibit the student from attending class or participating in a education district-related activity, or as a basis of a charge of child abuse, child neglect, or medical or educational neglect. The education district administration may not impose consecutive suspensions against the same student for the same course of conduct, or incident of misconduct, except where the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property or where the education district is in the process of initiating an expulsion, in which case the education district administration may extend the suspension to a total of fifteen (15) days.
5. A child with a disability may be suspended. When a child with a disability has been suspended for more than five (5) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative school days in the same year, and that suspension does not involve a recommendation for expulsion or exclusion or other change in placement under federal law, relevant members of the child's IEP team, including at least one of the child's teachers, shall meet and determine the extent to which the

child needs services in order to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals in the child's IEP. That meeting must occur as soon as possible, but no more than ten (10) days after the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) consecutive day of suspension or the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) cumulative day of suspension has elapsed.

6. Alternative education services must be provided to a pupil who is suspended for more than five (5) consecutive school days. Alternative educational services may include, but are not limited to, special tutoring, modified curriculum, modified instruction, other modifications or adaptations, instruction through electronic media, special education services as indicated by appropriate assessments, homebound instruction, supervised homework, or enrollment in another district or in an alternative learning center under Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.05 selected to allow the student to progress toward meeting graduation standards under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.02, although in a different setting.
7. The education district administration shall not suspend a student from school without an informal administrative conference with the student. The informal administrative conference shall take place before the suspension, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property, in which case the conference shall take place as soon as practicable following the suspension. At the informal administrative conference, a education district administrator shall notify the student of the grounds for the suspension, provide an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and the student may present the student's version of the facts. A separate administrative conference is required for each period of suspension.
8. After education district administration notifies a student of the grounds for suspension, education district administration may, instead of imposing the suspension, do one or more of the following:
  - a. strongly encourage a parent or guardian of the student to attend school with the student for one day;
  - b. assign the student to attend school on Saturday as supervised by the principal or the principal's designee; and
  - c. petition the juvenile court that the student is in need of services under Minnesota Statutes chapter 260C.
9. A written notice containing the grounds for suspension, a brief statement of the facts, a description of the testimony, a readmission plan, and a copy of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40-121A.56, shall be personally served upon the student at or before the time the suspension is to take effect, and upon the student's parent or guardian by mail within forty-eight (48) hours of the conference. (See attached sample Notice of Suspension.)
10. The education district administration shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent or guardian of the suspension by telephone as soon as possible following suspension.
11. In the event a student is suspended without an informal administrative conference on the grounds that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to surrounding persons or property, the written notice shall be served upon the student and the student's parent or guardian within forty-eight (48) hours of the suspension. Service by mail shall be complete upon mailing.

12. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the student may be suspended pending the education district board's decision in an expulsion or exclusion proceeding, provided that alternative educational services are implemented to the extent that suspension exceeds five (5) consecutive school days.

E. Expulsion and Exclusion Procedures

1. "Expulsion" means an education district board action to prohibit an enrolled student from further attendance for up to twelve (12) months from the date the student is expelled. The authority to expel rests with the education district board.
2. "Exclusion" means an action taken by the education district board to prevent enrollment or re-enrollment of a student for a period that shall not extend beyond the school year. The authority to exclude rests with the education district board.
3. All expulsion and exclusion proceedings will be held pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40-121A.56.
4. No expulsion or exclusion shall be imposed without a hearing, unless the right to a hearing is waived in writing by the student and parent or guardian.
5. The student and parent or guardian shall be provided written notice of the education district's intent to initiate expulsion or exclusion proceedings. This notice shall be served upon the student and his or her parent or guardian personally or by mail, and shall contain a complete statement of the facts; a list of the witnesses and a description of their testimony; state the date, time and place of hearing; be accompanied by a copy of the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40-121A.56; describe the non exclusionary disciplinary practices accorded the student in an attempt to avoid the expulsion proceedings; and inform the student and parent or guardian of their right to: (1) have a representative of the student's own choosing, including legal counsel at the hearing; (2) examine the student's records before the hearing; (3) present evidence; and (4) confront and cross-examine witnesses. The education district must advise the student's parent or guardian that free or low-cost legal assistance may be available and that a legal assistance resource list is available from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and is posted on its website.
6. The hearing shall be scheduled within ten (10) days of the service of the written notice unless an extension, not to exceed five (5) days, is requested for good cause by the education district, student, parent, or guardian.
7. All hearings shall be held at a time and place reasonably convenient to the student, parent, or guardian and shall be closed, unless the student, parent, or guardian requests an open hearing.
8. The education district shall record the hearing proceedings at district expense, and a party may obtain a transcript at its own expense.
9. The student shall have a right to a representative of the student's own choosing, including legal counsel, at the student's sole expense. The education district shall advise the student's parent or guardian that free or low-cost legal assistance may be available and that a legal assistance resource list is available from MDE. The education district board may appoint an attorney to represent the education district in any proceeding.
10. If the student designates a representative other than the parent or guardian,



the representative must have a written authorization from the student and the parent or guardian providing them with access to and/or copies of the student's records.

11. All expulsion or exclusion hearings shall take place before and be conducted by an independent hearing officer designated by the education district. The hearing shall be conducted in a fair and impartial manner. Testimony shall be given under oath and the hearing officer shall have the power to issue subpoenas and administer oaths.
12. At a reasonable time prior to the hearing, the student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative shall be given access to all education district records pertaining to the student, including any tests or reports upon which the proposed dismissal action may be based.
13. The student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative, shall have the right to compel the presence of any education district employee or agent or any other person who may have evidence upon which the proposed dismissal action may be based, and to confront and cross-examine any witnesses testifying for the education district.
14. The student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative, shall have the right to present evidence and testimony, including expert psychological or educational testimony.
15. The student cannot be compelled to testify in the dismissal proceedings.
16. The hearing officer shall prepare findings and a recommendation based solely upon substantial evidence presented at the hearing, which must be made to the education district board and served upon the parties within two (2) days after the close of the hearing.
17. The education district board shall base its decision upon the findings and recommendation of the hearing officer and shall render its decision at a meeting held within five (5) days after receiving the findings and recommendation. The education district board may provide the parties with the opportunity to present exceptions and comments to the hearing officer's findings and recommendation provided that neither party presents any evidence not admitted at the hearing. The decision by the education district board must be based on the record, must be in writing, and must state the controlling facts on which the decision is made in sufficient detail to apprise the parties and the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (Commissioner) of the basis and reason for the decision.
18. A party to an expulsion or exclusion decision made by the education district board may appeal the decision to the Commissioner within twenty-one (21) calendar days of education district board action pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 121A.49. The decision of the education district board shall be implemented during the appeal to the Commissioner.
19. The education district shall report any suspension, expulsion or exclusion action taken to the appropriate public service agency, when the student is under the supervision of such agency.
20. The education district must report, through the MDE electronic reporting system, each expulsion or exclusion within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the action to the Commissioner. This report must include a statement of alternative educational services given the student and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion. The report must also include the student's age, grade, gender, race, and special education

status. The dismissal report must include state student identification numbers of affected students.

21. Whenever a student fails to return to school within ten (10) school days of the termination of dismissal, an education district administrator shall inform the student and his/her parent or guardian by mail of the student's right to attend and to be reinstated in the education district.

### **XIII. ADMISSION OR READMISSION PLAN**

An education district administrator must prepare and enforce an admission or readmission plan for any student who is excluded or expelled from school. The plan must include measures to improve the student's behavior, which may include completing a character education program consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.232, subdivision 1, social and emotional learning, counseling, social work services, mental health services, referrals for special education or 504 evaluation, and evidence-based academic interventions. The plan must include reasonable attempts to obtain parental involvement in the admission or readmission process, and may indicate the consequences to the student of not improving the student's behavior. The readmission plan must not obligate parents to provide a sympathomimetic medication for their child as a condition of readmission.

### **XIV. NOTIFICATION OF POLICY VIOLATIONS**

Notification of any violation of this policy and resulting disciplinary action shall be as provided herein, or as otherwise provided by the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act or other applicable law. The teacher, principal or other education district official may provide additional notification as deemed appropriate.

In addition, the education district must report, through the MDE electronic reporting system, each exclusion or expulsion, each physical assault of a education district employee by a pupil, and each pupil withdrawal agreement within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the dismissal action, pupil withdrawal, or assault, to the MDE Commissioner. This report must include a statement of the non exclusionary disciplinary practices, or other sanction, intervention, or resolution in response to the assault given to the pupil and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion or other sanction, intervention, or resolution. The report must also include the pupil's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status.

### **XV. STUDENT DISCIPLINE RECORDS**

The policy of the education district is that complete and accurate student discipline records be maintained. The collection, dissemination, and maintenance of student discipline records shall be consistent with applicable education district policies and federal and state law, including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13.

### **XVI. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who are currently identified as eligible under the IDEA or Section 504 will be subject to the provisions of this policy, unless the student's IEP or 504 plan specifies a necessary modification.

Before initiating an expulsion or exclusion of a student with a disability, relevant members of the child's IEP team and the child's parent shall, consistent with federal law, conduct a manifestation determination and determine whether the child's behavior was (i) caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability and (ii) whether the child's conduct was a direct result of a failure to implement the child's IEP. If the student's educational program is appropriate and the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the education district will proceed with discipline – up to and including expulsion – as if the student did not have a disability, unless the student's educational program provides otherwise. If the team determines that the behavior subject to discipline is a manifestation of

the student's disability, the team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such student provided that the education district had not conducted such assessment prior to the manifestation determination before the behavior that resulted in a change of placement. Where a behavioral intervention plan previously has been developed, the team will review the behavioral intervention plan and modify it as necessary to address the behavior.

When a student who has an IEP is excluded or expelled for misbehavior that is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the education district shall continue to provide special education and related services during the period of expulsion or exclusion.

#### **XVII. OPEN ENROLLED STUDENTS**

The education district may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student enrolled under an Enrollment Option Program (Minnesota Statutes section 124D.03) or Enrollment in Nonresident District (Minnesota Statutes section 124D.08) at the end of a school year if the student meets the definition of a habitual truant, the student has been provided appropriate services for truancy (Minnesota Statutes chapter 260A), and the student's case has been referred to juvenile court. The education district may also terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student over the age of seventeen (17) enrolled under an Enrollment Options Program if the student is absent without lawful excuse for one or more periods on fifteen (15) school days and has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

#### **XVIII. DISCIPLINE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

Students, parents and other guardians, and education district staff may file a complaint and seek corrective action when the requirements of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, including the implementation of the local behavior and discipline policies, are not being implemented appropriately or are being discriminately applied.

The Discipline Complaint Procedure must, at a minimum:

1. provide procedures for communicating this policy including the ability for a parent to appeal a decision under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.49 that contains explicit instructions for filing the complaint;
2. provide an opportunity for involved parties to submit additional information related to the complaint;
3. provide a procedure to begin to investigate complaints within three school days of receipt, and identify personnel who will manage the investigation and any resulting record and are responsible for keeping and regulating access to any record;
4. provide procedures for issuing a written determination to the complainant that addresses each allegation and contains findings and conclusions;
5. if the investigation finds the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40 to 121A.61, including any local policies that were not implemented appropriately, contain procedures that require a corrective action plan to correct a student's record and provide relevant staff with training, coaching, or other accountability practices to ensure appropriate compliance with policies in the future; and
6. prohibit reprisals or retaliation against any person who asserts, alleges, or reports a complaint, and provide procedures for applying appropriate consequences for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation.

#### **XIX. DISTRIBUTION OF POLICY**

The education district will notify students and parents of the existence and contents of this policy in such manner as it deems appropriate. Copies of this discipline policy shall be made

available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year and to all new students and parents upon enrollment. This policy shall also be available upon request in each principal's office.

## **XX. REVIEW OF POLICY**

The principal and representatives of parents, students and staff in each school building shall confer at least annually to review this discipline policy, determine if the policy is working as intended, and to assess whether the discipline policy has been enforced. Any recommended changes shall be submitted to the executive director for consideration by the education district board, which shall conduct an annual review of this policy.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.26 (School Preassessment Teams)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.29 (Reporting; Chemical Abuse)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.575 (Alternatives to Pupil Suspension)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.60 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.42 (General Control of Schools)  
Minn. Stat. § 123A.05 (State-Approved Alternative Program Organization)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Boards' Approval to Enroll in Nonresident District; Exceptions)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 125A (Special Education and Special Programs)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22, Subd. 6 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A (Truancy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260C (Juvenile Safety and Placement)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1400-1487 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)  
34 C.F.R. § 300.530(e)(1) (Manifestation Determination)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 419 (Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; [Vaping Awareness and prevention Instruction](#))  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 502 (Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 503 (Student Attendance)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 527 (Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 610 (Field Trips)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 711 (Video Recording on School Buses)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 712 (Video Surveillance Other Than on Buses)

## 507 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND PRONE RESTRAINT

**[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements. The revisions in the model policy incorporate legislative changes enacted throughout the 2024 Minnesota legislative session. School boards may have adopted some revisions in the spring, when the first set of laws were enacted]**

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe limitations on use of corporal punishment and prone restraint upon a student.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

No employee or agent of the education district shall inflict corporal punishment or use prone restraint upon a student.

### III. DEFINITIONS

1. "Corporal punishment" means conduct involving:
  - a. hitting or spanking a person with or without an object; or
  - b. unreasonable physical force that causes bodily harm or substantial emotional harm.
2. "Employee or agent of the education district" does not include a school resource officer as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 626.8482, subdivision 1, paragraph (c).
3. "Prone restraint" means placing a child in a face-down position.

### IV. PROHIBITIONS

1. An employee or agent of a district shall not inflict corporal punishment or cause corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a pupil to reform unacceptable conduct or as a penalty for unacceptable conduct.
2. An employee or agent of ~~the education district, including a school resource officer, security personnel, or police officer contracted with a district,~~ shall not use prone restraint.
3. An employee or agent of a district, ~~including a school resource officer, security personnel, or police officer contracted with a district,~~ shall not inflict any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a pupil's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a pupil's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a pupil's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a pupil's torso.
4. Conduct that violates this Article is not a crime under Minnesota Statutes, section 645.241, but may be a crime under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 609 if the conduct violates a provision of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 609. Conduct that violates IV.1 above is not per se corporal punishment under the statute. Nothing in this Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.58 or 125A.0941 precludes the use of reasonable force under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.582. ~~The use of reasonable force as set forth in Section V does not authorize conduct prohibited pursuant to Minnesota~~

Statutes, section 125A.0942.

**V. EXCEPTIONS REASONABLE FORCE**

1. Reasonable force may be used upon or toward the person of another without the other's consent when the following circumstance exists or the actor reasonably believes it to exist
  - a. when used by a teacher, school principal, school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of the school in the exercise of lawful authority, to restrain a child or pupil to prevent bodily harm or death to the child, pupil, or another.
  
2. Reasonable force may be used upon or toward the person of a child without the child's consent when the following circumstance exists or the actor reasonably believes it to exist:
  - a. when used by a teacher, school principal, school employee, school bus driver, other agent of the district, or other member of the instructional, support, or supervisory staff of a public school upon or toward a child or pupil when necessary to restrain the child or pupil to prevent bodily harm or death to the child, pupil. Nothing in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.379 limits any other authorization to use reasonable force including but not limited to authorizations under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.582, subdivision 1, and section 609.06, subdivision 1.
  
3. A teacher or education district principal may use reasonable force under the conditions set forth in Policy 507 (Student Discipline).

**VI. VIOLATION**

Employees who violate the provisions of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action as appropriate. Any such disciplinary action shall be made pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements and education district policies. Violation of this policy may also result in civil or criminal liability for the employee.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.58 (Corporal Punishment)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.25 (Legal Actions Against Districts and Teachers)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.0941 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.0942 (Standards for Restrictive Procedures)  
¶  
Minn. Stat. § 609.06 ~~Subd. 1 (6)(7)~~ (Authorized Use of Force)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Permitted Actions)  
Minn. Stat. § 626.8482 (School Resource Officers; Duties; Training; Model Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 645,241 (Punishment for Prohibited Acts)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical

or Sexual Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507.5 (School Resource Officers)

## 509 ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

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

### I. PURPOSE

The education district desires to participate in the Enrollment Options Program (Open Enrollment) established by Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.03. The purpose of this policy is to set forth the application and exclusion procedures used by the education district in making said determination.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The education district board adopts specific standards for acceptance and rejection of Open Enrollment applications.

### III. OPEN ENROLLMENT PROCESS

A. Open Enrollment applications will be approved provided that acceptance of the application will not exceed the capacity of a program, excluding special education services; class; grade level; or school building as established by education district board resolution and provided that:

1. space is available for the applicant under enrollment cap standards established by education district board policy or other directive; and
2. in considering the capacity of a grade level, the education district may only limit the enrollment of nonresident students to a number not less than the lesser of: (a) one percent of the total enrollment at each grade level in the education district; or (b) the number of education district resident students at that grade level enrolled in a nonresident education district in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.03.
3. the applicant is not otherwise excluded by action of the education district because of previous conduct in another education district.

B. If the education district limits enrollment of nonresident students pursuant to this section, the district shall report to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) by July 15 on the number of nonresident pupils denied admission due to the limitations on the enrollment of nonresident pupils.

C. The parent of a student with a disability not yet enrolled in kindergarten and not open enrolled in a nonresident district may elect, in the same manner as the parent of a resident student with a disability, a school in the nonresident district where the child is enrolled in a Head Start program or a licensed child care setting in the nonresident district, provided the child can be served in the same setting as other children in the nonresident district with the same level of disability.

Under this paragraph, parents must demonstrate enrollment in a community preschool or childcare setting.

**[NOTE: MDE states: "There is no standard set for how parents must demonstrate enrollment in a community preschool or childcare setting. We recommend a written policy for this process." A district may choose to insert applicable local provisions here.]**

D. A nonresident preschool aged <sup>184</sup> child with a disability open enrolled in the district



may be required to open enroll for kindergarten.

**[NOTE: MDE offers the following recommendation: “the non-resident district may elect to allow the child’s enrollment status to continue without completing another application. We recommend that districts create policies around this election which must be non-discriminatory and in writing.” A district may choose to insert applicable local provisions here.]**

#### **IV. BASIS FOR DECISIONS**

##### **A. Standards that may be used for rejection of application**

In addition to the provisions above, the education district may refuse to allow a pupil who is expelled under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.45 to enroll during the term of the expulsion if the student was expelled for:

1. possessing a dangerous weapon, including a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade less than two and one-half inches in length, at school or a school function;
2. possessing or using an illegal drug at school or a school function;
3. selling or soliciting the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function; or
4. committing a third-degree assault involving assaulting another and inflicting substantial bodily harm.

##### **C. Standards that may not be used for rejection of application**

The education district may not use the following standards in determining whether to accept or reject an application for open enrollment:

1. previous academic achievement of a student;
2. athletic or extracurricular ability of a student;
3. disabling conditions of a student;
4. a student’s proficiency in the English language;
5. the student’s district of residence except where the district of residence is directly included in an enrollment options strategy included in an approved achievement and integration program; or
6. previous disciplinary proceedings involving the student. This shall not preclude the education district from proceeding with exclusion as set out in this policy.

##### **D. Application**

The student and parent or guardian must complete and submit the “General Statewide Enrollment Options Application for K-12 and Early Childhood Special Education (or the Statewide Enrollment Options Application for State-funded Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) ~~or School Readiness Plus (SRP)~~ Application if applicable) developed by MDE and available on its website.

The education district may require a nonresident student enrolled in a program under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.13, or in a preschool program, except for a program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.151 ~~or Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 8, section 9, 105~~ follow the application procedures under this

subdivision to enroll in kindergarten. A district must allow a nonresident student enrolled in a program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.151 ~~or Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 8, section 9,~~ to remain enrolled in the district when the student enters kindergarten without submitting annual or periodic applications, unless the district terminates the student's enrollment under subdivision 12.

The education district shall notify the parent or guardian in writing by February 15 or within ninety (90) days for applications submitted after January 15 in the case of achievement and integration district transfers whether the application has been accepted or rejected. If an application is rejected, the district must state in the notification the reason for rejection. The parent or guardian must notify the nonresident district by March 1 or within ten (10) business days whether the pupil intends to enroll in the nonresident district.

#### E. Lotteries

If an education district has more applications than available seats at a specific grade level, it must hold an impartial lottery following the January 15 deadline to determine which students will receive seats. The district must give priority to enrolling siblings of currently enrolled students, students whose applications are related to an approved integration and achievement plan, children of the education district's staff, and students residing in that part of a municipality (a statutory or home rule charter city or town) where:

1. the student's resident district does not operate a school building;
2. the municipality is located partially or fully within the boundaries of at least five school districts;
3. the nonresident district in which the student seeks to enroll operates one or more school buildings within the municipality; and
4. no other nonresident, independent, special, or common school district operates a school building within the municipality.

The process for the education district lottery must be established by education district board policy and posted on the education district's website.

#### F. Exclusion

1. Administrator's initial determination. If an education district administrator knows or has reason to believe that an applicant has engaged in conduct that has subjected or could subject the applicant to expulsion or exclusion under law or education district policy, the administrator will transmit the application to the executive director with a recommendation of whether exclusion proceedings should be initiated.
2. Executive director's review. The executive director may make further inquiries. If the executive director determines that the applicant should be admitted, he or she will notify the applicant and the education district board chair. If the executive director determines that the applicant should be excluded, the executive director will notify the applicant and determine whether the applicant wishes to continue the application process. Although an application may not be rejected based on previous disciplinary proceedings, the education district reserves the right to initiate exclusion procedures pursuant to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act as warranted on a case-by-case basis.

#### G. Termination of Enrollment

The education district may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student enrolled under an enrollment options program pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.03

or 124D.08 at the end of a school year if the student meets the definition of a habitual truant, the student has been provided appropriate services for truancy under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260A, and the student's case has been referred to juvenile court. A "habitual truant" is a child under 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days in a school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days in a school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days in a school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 8. The education district may also terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student over 17 years of age if the student is absent without lawful excuse for one or more periods on 15 school days and has not lawfully withdrawn from school under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 8.

A student who has not applied for and been accepted for open enrollment pursuant to this policy and does not otherwise meet the residency requirements for enrollment may be terminated from enrollment and removed from school. Prior to removal from school, the education district will send to the student's parents a written notice of the education district's belief that the student is not a resident of the education district. The notice shall include the facts upon which the belief is based and notice to the parents of their opportunity to provide documentary evidence, in person or in writing, of residency to the executive director or the executive director's designee. The executive director or the executive director's designee will make the final determination as to the residency status of the student.

Notwithstanding the requirement that an application must be approved by the board of the nonresident district, a student who has been enrolled in a district, who is identified as homeless, and whose parent or legal guardian moves to another district, or who is placed in foster care in another education district, may continue to enroll in the nonresident district without the approval of the board of the nonresident district. The approval of the board of the student's resident district is not required.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 3(e) and Subd. 8 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Board Approval to Enroll in Nonresident District; Exceptions)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.151 (Voluntary Prekindergarten Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.68 (Graduation Incentives Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.13 (School of Parents' Choice)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A (Truancy)  
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 19 (Definitions)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169-f (Aug. 13, 1986)  
*Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 623 v. Minn. Dept. of Educ.*, Co. No. A05-361, 2005 WL 3111963 (Minn. Ct. App. 2005) (unpublished)  
18 U.S.C. 930, para. (g)(2) (Definition of weapon)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 517 (Student Recruiting)

## **513 STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND PROGRAM DESIGN**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents, and students regarding student promotion, retention, and program design.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The education district board expects all students to achieve at an acceptable level of proficiency. Parental assistance, tutorial and remedial programs, counseling, and other appropriate services shall be coordinated and utilized to the greatest extent possible to help students succeed in school.

#### **A. Promotion**

Students who achieve at levels deemed acceptable by local and state standards shall be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of each school year.

#### **B. Retention**

Retention of a student may be considered when professional staff and parents feel that it is in the best interest of the student. Physical development, maturity, and emotional factors shall be considered, as well as scholastic achievement. The executive director's decision shall be final.

#### **C. Program Design**

1. The executive director, with participation of the professional staff and parents, shall develop and implement programs to challenge students that are consistent with the needs of students at every level. A process to assess and evaluate students for program assignment shall be developed in coordination with such programs. Opportunities for special programs and placement outside of the education district shall also be developed as additional options. All programs will be aligned with creating **comprehensive achievement and civic readiness, the World's Best Workforce.**
2. The education district may identify students, locally develop programs and services addressing instructional and affective needs, provide staff development, and evaluate programs to provide gifted and talented students with challenging and appropriate educational programs and services.
3. The education district must adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying students for participation in gifted and talented programs and services consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11. The guidelines should include the use of:
  - a. multiple objective criteria; and
  - b. assessments and procedures that are valid and reliable, fair, and based on current theory and research. Assessments and procedures should

be sensitive to under-represented groups, including, but not limited to, low-income, minority, twice-exceptional, and English learners.

4. The education district must adopt procedures for the academic acceleration of gifted and talented students. These procedures will include how the education district will:
  - a. assess a student's readiness and motivation for acceleration; and
  - b. match the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to a student to achieve the best type of academic acceleration for that student.
5. The education district must adopt procedures consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.02 for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted or talented learners consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2). The procedures must be sensitive to underrepresented groups.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.15 (Gifted and Talented Students Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendent)

**Cross References:** 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 620 (Credit for Learning)

## 515 PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF PUPIL RECORDS

*[Note: education districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]*

### I. PURPOSE

The education district recognizes its responsibility in regard to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of pupil records and the protection of the privacy rights of students as provided in federal law and state statutes.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The following procedures and policies regarding the protection and privacy of parents and students are adopted by the education district, pursuant to the requirements of 20 United States Code section 1232g, *et seq.*, (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)) 34 Code of Federal Regulations part 99 and consistent with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes chapter 13, and Minnesota Rules parts 1205.0100-1205.2000.

### III. DEFINITIONS

#### A. Authorized Representative

“Authorized representative” means any entity or individual designated by the education district, state, or an agency headed by an official of the Comptroller of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, or state and local educational authorities to conduct, with respect to federal or state supported education programs, any audit or evaluation or any compliance or enforcement activity in connection with federal legal requirements that relate to these programs.

#### B. Biometric Record

“Biometric record,” as referred to in “Personally Identifiable,” means a record of one or more measurable biological or behavioral characteristics that can be used for automated recognition of an individual (e.g., fingerprints, retina and iris patterns, voiceprints, DNA sequence, facial characteristics, and handwriting).

#### C. Dates of Attendance

“Dates of attendance,” as referred to in “Directory Information,” means the period

of time during which a student attends or attended a school or schools in the education district, including attendance in person or by paper correspondence, videoconference, satellite, Internet, or other electronic information and telecommunications technologies for students who are not in the classroom, and including the period during which a student is working under a work-study program. The term does not include specific daily records of a student's attendance at a school or schools in the education district.

D. Directory Information

1. **Under federal law**“ ~~D~~directory information” means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, the student's name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time); participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; degrees, honors and awards received; and the most recent educational agency or institution attended. It also includes the name, address, and telephone number of the student's parent(s). Directory information does not include:

~~1~~a. a student's social security number;

~~2~~b. a student's identification number (ID), user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems if the identifier may be used to access education records without use of one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user;

~~3~~c. a student ID or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge if the identifier can be used to gain access to educational records when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the student;

~~4~~d. personally identifiable data which references religion, race, color, social position, or nationality; or

~~5~~e. data collected from nonpublic school students, other than those who receive shared time educational services, unless written consent is given by the student's parent or guardian.

2. **Under Minnesota law**, a school district may not designate a student's home address, telephone number, email address, or other personal contact information as “directory information.”

~~*[Note: This definition includes all of the types of information specifically referenced by state and federal law as directory information. Minnesota law prohibits schools from designating student contact information as “directory information” despite the FERPA definition. Minnesota schools should comply with Minnesota law and should not include student contact information in their definition of “directory information.”*~~

*An education district may choose not to designate some or all of the enumerated information as directory information. An education district also may add to the list of directory information, as long as the added data is not information that generally would be deemed as an invasion of privacy or information that references the student’s religion, race, color, social position, or nationality. Federal law now allows an education district to specify that the disclosure of directory information will be limited to specific parties, for specific purposes, or both. The identity of those parties and/or purposes should be identified. To the extent an education district adds these restrictions, it must then limit its directory information disclosures to those individuals and/or purposes specified in this public notice. Procedures to address how these restrictions will be enforced by the education district are advised. Designation of directory information is an important policy decision for the local education district board who must balance not only the privacy interests of the student against public disclosure but also the additional administrative requirements such restrictions on disclosures will be placed on the education district.]*

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted Minnesota Statutes, section 480.40, which includes a law limiting disclosure of personal information concerning “judicial officials.” The new law includes a definition of “judicial official” that school districts can review. “Personal information” about a judicial official includes “the name of any child” and the name of any school that such a child attends if combined with an assertion that the child attends the school. School districts may not “knowingly publicly post, display, publish, sell, or otherwise make available on the Internet the personal information of any judicial official,” including in response to requests for directory information.]**

E. Education Records

1. What constitutes “education records.” Education records means those records that are: (1) directly related to a student; and (2) maintained by the education district or by a party acting for the education district.
2. What does not constitute education records. The term “education records” does not include:
  - a. Records of instructional personnel that are:



- (1) kept in the sole possession of the maker of the record;
  - (2) used only as a personal memory aid;
  - (3) not accessible or revealed to any other individual except a temporary substitute teacher; and
  - (4) destroyed at the end of the school year.
- b. Records of a law enforcement unit of the education district, provided education records maintained by the education district are not disclosed to the unit, and the law enforcement records are:
- (1) maintained separately from education records;
  - (2) maintained solely for law enforcement purposes; and
  - (3) disclosed only to law enforcement officials of the same jurisdiction.
- c. Records relating to an individual, including a student, who is employed by the education district which:
- (1) are made and maintained in the normal course of business;
  - (2) relate exclusively to the individual in that individual's capacity as an employee; and
  - (3) are not available for use for any other purpose.
- However, records relating to an individual in attendance at the education district who is employed as a result of his or her status as a student are education records.
- d. Records relating to an eligible student, or a student attending an institution of post-secondary education, that are:
- (1) made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in his or her professional or paraprofessional capacity or assisting in that capacity;
  - (2) made, maintained, or used only in connection with the provision of treatment to the student; and
  - (3) disclosed only to individuals providing the treatment; provided that the records can be personally reviewed by a

physician or other appropriate professional of the student's choice. For the purpose of this definition, "treatment" does not include remedial educational activities or activities that are a part of the program of instruction within the education district.

- e. Records created or received by the education district after an individual is no longer a student at the education district and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student.
- f. Grades on peer-related papers before the papers are collected and recorded by a teacher.

F. Education Support Services Data

"Education support services data" means data on individuals collected, created, maintained, used, or disseminated relating to programs administered by a government entity or entity under contract with a government entity designed to eliminate disparities and advance equities in educational achievement for youth by coordinating services available to participants, regardless of the youth's involvement with other government services. Education support services data does not include welfare data under Minnesota Statutes section 13.46.

Unless otherwise provided by law, all education support services data are private data on individuals and must not be disclosed except according to Minnesota Statutes section 13.05 or a court order.

G. Eligible Student

"Eligible student" means a student who has attained eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of post-secondary education.

H. Juvenile Justice System

"Juvenile justice system" includes criminal justice agencies and the judiciary when involved in juvenile justice activities.

I. Legitimate Educational Interest

"Legitimate educational interest" includes an interest directly related to classroom instruction, teaching, student achievement and progress, discipline of a student, student health and welfare, and the ability to respond to a request for education data. It includes a person's need to know in order to:

- 1. Perform an administrative task required in the school or employee's

contract or position description approved by the education district board;

2. Perform a supervisory or instructional task directly related to the student's education;
3. Perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family such as health care, counseling, student job placement, or student financial aid; or
4. Perform a task directly related to responding to a request for data.

J. Parent

“Parent” means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent of the student in the absence of a parent or guardian. The education district may presume the parent has the authority to exercise the rights provided herein, unless it has been provided with evidence that there is a state law or court order governing such matters as marriage dissolution, separation or child custody, or a legally binding instrument which provides to the contrary.

K. Personally Identifiable

“Personally identifiable” means that the data or information includes, but is not limited to: (a) a student's name; (b) the name of the student's parent or other family member; (c) the address of the student or student's family; (d) a personal identifier such as the student's social security number or student number or biometric record; (e) other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; (f) other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or (g) information requested by a person who the education district reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

L. Record

“Record” means any information or data recorded in any way including, but not limited to, handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm, and microfiche.

M. Responsible Authority

“Responsible authority” means Executive Director, Cheryl Johnson.

N. Student

“Student” includes any individual who is or has been in attendance, enrolled, or registered at the education district and regarding whom the education district maintains education records. Student also includes applicants for enrollment or registration at the education district and individuals who receive shared time educational services from the education district.

O. Education District Official

“Education district official” includes: (a) a person duly elected to the education district board; (b) a person employed by the education district board in an administrative, supervisory, instructional, or other professional position; (c) a person employed by the education district board as a temporary substitute in a professional position for the period of his or her performance as a substitute; and (d) a person employed by, or under contract to, the education district board to perform a special task such as a secretary, a clerk, a public information officer or data practices compliance official, an attorney, or an auditor for the period of his or her performance as an employee or contractor.

*[Note: education districts may wish to reference police liaison officers in the definition of a “education district official.” Depending on the circumstances of the relationship, this may be added in subpart (d) of the definition or in a new subpart (e). Caution should be used to ensure that police liaison officers are considered “education district officials” only when performing duties as a police liaison officer and that they are trained as to their obligations pursuant to this policy. Consultation with the education district’s legal counsel is recommended.]*

P. Summary Data

“Summary data” means statistical records and reports derived from data on individuals but in which individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify the individual is ascertainable.

Q. Other Terms and Phrases

All other terms and phrases shall be defined in accordance with applicable state and federal law or ordinary customary usage.

#### IV. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION

State law provides that all data collected, created, received, or maintained by an education district are public unless classified by state or federal law as not public or private or confidential. State law classifies all data on individuals maintained by an education district which relates to a student as private data on individuals. This data may not be disclosed to parties other than the parent or eligible student without consent,

except pursuant to a valid court order, certain state statutes authorizing access, and the provisions of FERPA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

## V. STATEMENT OF RIGHTS

### A. Rights of Parents and Eligible Students

Parents and eligible students have the following rights under this policy:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records;
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that such consent is not required for disclosure pursuant to this policy, state or federal law, or the regulations promulgated thereunder;
4. The right to refuse release of names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions;
5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the education district to comply with the federal law and the regulations promulgated thereunder;
6. The right to be informed about rights under the federal law; and
7. The right to obtain a copy of this policy at the location set forth in Section XXI. of this policy.

### B. Eligible Students

All rights and protections given to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he or she reaches eighteen (18) years of age or enrolls in an institution of post-secondary education. The student then becomes an "eligible student." However, the parents of an eligible student who is also a "dependent student" are entitled to gain access to the education records of such student without first obtaining the consent of the student. In addition, parents of an eligible student may be given access to education records in connection with a health or safety emergency if the disclosure meets the conditions of any provision set forth in 34 Code of Federal Regulations section 99.31(a).

### C. Students with a Disability

The education district shall follow 34 Code of Federal Regulations sections 300.610-300.617 with regard to the privacy, notice, access, recordkeeping, and accuracy of information related to students with a disability.

## **VI. DISCLOSURE OF EDUCATION RECORDS**

### **A. Consent Required for Disclosure**

1. The education district shall obtain a signed and dated written informed consent of the parent of a student or the eligible student before disclosing personally identifiable information from the education records of the student, except as provided herein.
2. The written consent required by this subdivision must be signed and dated by the parent of the student or the eligible student giving the consent and shall include:
  - a. a specification of the records to be disclosed;
  - b. the purpose or purposes of the disclosure;
  - c. the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made;
  - d. the consequences of giving informed consent; and
  - e. if appropriate, a termination date for the consent.
3. When a disclosure is made under this subdivision:
  - a. if the parent or eligible student so requests, the education district shall provide him or her with a copy of the records disclosed; and
  - b. if the parent of a student who is not an eligible student so requests, the education district shall provide the student with a copy of the records disclosed.
4. A signed and dated written consent may include a record and signature in electronic form that:
  - a. identifies and authenticates a particular person as the source of the electronic consent; and
  - b. indicates such person's approval of the information contained in the electronic consent.
5. If the responsible authority seeks an individual's informed consent to the release of private data to an insurer or the authorized representative of an

insurer, informed consent shall not be deemed to have been given unless the statement is:

- a. in plain language;
- b. dated;
- c. specific in designating the particular persons or agencies the data subject is authorizing to disclose information about the data subject;
- d. specific as to the nature of the information the subject is authorizing to be disclosed;
- e. specific as to the persons or agencies to whom the subject is authorizing information to be disclosed;
- f. specific as to the purpose or purposes for which the information may be used by any of the parties named in Clause e. above, both at the time of the disclosure and at any time in the future; and
- g. specific as to its expiration date which should be within a reasonable time, not to exceed one year except in the case of authorizations given in connection with applications for: (i) life insurance or non cancellable or guaranteed renewable health insurance and identified as such, two years after the date of the policy, or (ii) medical assistance under Minnesota Statutes chapter 256B or Minnesota Care under Minnesota Statutes chapter 256L, which shall be ongoing during all terms of eligibility, for individualized education program health-related services provided by an education district that are subject to third party reimbursement.

6. Eligible Student Consent

Whenever a student has attained eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of post-secondary education, the rights accorded to and the consent required of the parent of the student shall thereafter only be accorded to and required of the eligible student, except as provided in Section V. of this policy.

B. Prior Consent for Disclosure Not Required

The education district may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student without the written consent of the parent of the student or the eligible student unless otherwise provided herein, if the disclosure is:

1. To other education district officials, including teachers, within the education district whom the education district determines have a legitimate educational interest in such records;
2. To a contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other party to whom the education district has outsourced institutional services or functions provided that the outside party:
  - a. performs an institutional service or function for which the education district would otherwise use employees;
  - b. is under the direct control of the education district with respect to the use and maintenance of education records; and
  - c. will not disclose the information to any other party without the prior consent of the parent or eligible student and uses the information only for the purposes for which the disclosure was made;
3. To officials of other schools, education districts, or post-secondary educational institutions in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. The records shall include information about disciplinary action taken as a result of any incident in which the student possessed or used a dangerous weapon, and with proper annual notice (see Section XIX.), suspension and expulsion information pursuant to section 7917 of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 United States Code section 7917, Policy 529 and, if applicable, data regarding a student's history of violent behavior. The records also shall include a copy of any probable cause notice or any disposition or court order under Minnesota Statutes section 260B.171, unless the data are required to be destroyed under Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22, subdivision 7(c) or section 121A.75. On request, the education district will provide the parent or eligible student with a copy of the education records that have been transferred and provide an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of those records in accordance with Section XV. of this policy;
4. To authorized representatives of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, or the Commissioner of the State Department of Education or his or her representative, subject to the conditions relative to such disclosure provided under federal law;
5. In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received, if the information is necessary for such purposes as to:



- a. determine eligibility for the aid;
- b. determine the amount of the aid;
- c. determine conditions for the aid; or
- d. enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.

“Financial aid” for purposes of this provision means a payment of funds provided to an individual or a payment in kind of tangible or intangible property to the individual that is conditioned on the individual’s attendance at an educational agency or institution;

- 6. To state and local officials or authorities to whom such information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed pursuant to state statute adopted:
  - a. before November 19, 1974, if the allowed reporting or disclosure concerns the juvenile justice system and such system’s ability to effectively serve the student whose records are released; or
  - b. after November 19, 1974, if the reporting or disclosure allowed by state statute concerns the juvenile justice system and the system’s ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records are released, provided the officials and authorities to whom the records are disclosed certify in writing to the education district that the data will not be disclosed to any other party, except as provided by state law, without the prior written consent of the parent of the student. At a minimum, the education district shall disclose the following information to the juvenile justice system under this paragraph: a student’s full name, home address, telephone number, and date of birth; a student’s school schedule, attendance record, and photographs, if any; and parents’ names, home addresses, and telephone numbers;
- 7. To organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction; provided that the studies are conducted in a manner which does not permit the personal identification of parents or students by individuals other than representatives of the organization who have a legitimate interest in the information, the information is destroyed when no longer needed for the purposes for which the study was conducted, and the education district enters into a written agreement with the organization that: (a) specifies the purpose, scope, and duration of the study or studies and the information to be disclosed; (b) requires the organization to use personally identifiable information from education

records only to meet the purpose or purposes of the study as stated in the written agreement; (c) requires the organization to conduct the study in a manner that does not permit personal identification of parents and students by anyone other than representatives of the organization with legitimate interests; and (d) requires the organization to destroy all personally identifiable information when information is no longer needed for the purposes for which the study was conducted and specifies the time period in which the information must be destroyed. For purposes of this provision, the term, “organizations,” includes, but is not limited to, federal, state, and local agencies and independent organizations. In the event the Department of Education determines that a third party outside of the education district to whom information is disclosed violates this provision, the education district may not allow that third party access to personally identifiable information from education records for at least five (5) years;

8. To accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions;
9. To parents of a student eighteen (18) years of age or older if the student is a dependent of the parents for income tax purposes;
10. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, provided, however, that the education district makes a reasonable effort to notify the parent or eligible student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance therewith so that the parent or eligible student may seek protective action, unless the disclosure is in compliance with a federal grand jury subpoena, or any other subpoena issued for law enforcement purposes, and the court or other issuing agency has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be disclosed, or the disclosure is in compliance with an ex parte court order obtained by the United States Attorney General (or designee not lower than an Assistant Attorney General) concerning investigations or prosecutions of an offense listed in 18 United States Code section 2332b(g)(5)(B), an act of domestic or international terrorism as defined in 18 ~~U.S.C. §~~ [United States Code 2331](#), or a parent is a party to a court proceeding involving child abuse and neglect or dependency matters, and the order is issued in the context of the proceeding. If the education district initiates legal action against a parent or student, it may disclose to the court, without a court order or subpoena, the education records of the student that are relevant for the education district to proceed with the legal action as a plaintiff. Also, if a parent or eligible student initiates a legal action against the education district, the education district may disclose to the court, without a court order or subpoena, the student’s education records that are relevant for the education district to defend itself;

11. To appropriate parties, including parents of an eligible student, in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health, including the mental health, or safety of the student or other individuals. The decision is to be based upon information available at the time the threat occurs that indicates that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals. In making a determination whether to disclose information under this section, the education district may take into account the totality of the circumstances pertaining to a threat and may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other students. A record of this disclosure must be maintained pursuant to Section XIII.E. of this policy. In addition, an educational agency or institution may include in the education records of a student appropriate information concerning disciplinary action taken against the student for conduct that posed a significant risk to the safety or well-being of that student, other students, or other members of the school community. This information may be disclosed to teachers and education officials within the education district and/or teachers and education district officials in other schools who have legitimate educational interests in the behavior of the student;
12. To the juvenile justice system if information about the behavior of a student who poses a risk of harm is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals;
13. Information the education district has designated as “directory information” pursuant to Section VII. of this policy;
14. To military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions pursuant to Section XI. of this policy;
15. To the parent of a student who is not an eligible student or to the student himself or herself;
16. To appropriate health authorities to the extent necessary to administer immunization programs and for bona fide epidemiologic investigations which the commissioner of health determines are necessary to prevent disease or disability to individuals in the public educational agency or institution in which the investigation is being conducted;
17. To volunteers who are determined to have a legitimate educational interest in the data and who are conducting activities and events sponsored by or endorsed by the educational agency or institution for students or former students;
18. To the juvenile justice system, on written request that certifies that the

information will not be disclosed to any other person except as authorized by law without the written consent of the parent of the student:

- a. the following information about a student must be disclosed: a student's full name, home address, telephone number, date of birth; a student's school schedule, daily attendance record, and photographs, if any; and any parents' names, home addresses, and telephone numbers;
- b. the existence of the following information about a student, not the actual data or other information contained in the student's education record, may be disclosed provided that a request for access must be submitted on the statutory form and it must contain an explanation of why access to the information is necessary to serve the student: (1) use of a controlled substance, alcohol, or tobacco; (2) assaultive or threatening conduct that could result in dismissal from school under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; (3) possession or use of weapons or look-alike weapons; (4) theft; or (5) vandalism or other damage to property. Prior to releasing this information, the principal or chief administrative officer of a school who receives such a request must, to the extent permitted by federal law, notify the student's parent or guardian by certified mail of the request to disclose information. If the student's parent or guardian notifies the education district official of an objection to the disclosure within ten (10) days of receiving certified notice, the education district official must not disclose the information and instead must inform the requesting member of the juvenile justice system of the objection. If no objection from the parent or guardian is received within fourteen (14) days, the education district official must respond to the request for information.

The written requests of the juvenile justice system member(s), as well as a record of any release, must be maintained in the student's file;

19. To the principal where the student attends and to any counselor directly supervising or reporting on the behavior or progress of the student if it is information from a disposition order received by an executive director under Minnesota Statutes section 260B.171, subdivision 3. The principal must notify the counselor immediately and must place the disposition order in the student's permanent education record. The principal also must notify immediately any teacher or administrator who directly supervises or reports on the behavior or progress of the student whom the principal believes needs the information to work with the student in an appropriate manner, to avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or to protect other persons from needless vulnerability. The principal may also notify other education district employees, substitutes, and volunteers who are in direct contact with the student if the principal determines that these individuals need the

information to work with the student in an appropriate manner, to avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or to protect other persons from needless vulnerability. Such notices from the principal must identify the student, outline the offense, and describe any conditions of probation about which the school must provide information if this information is provided in the disposition order. Disposition order information received is private educational data received for the limited purpose of serving the educational needs of the student and protecting students and staff. The information may not be further disseminated by the counselor, teacher, administrator, staff member, substitute, or volunteer except as necessary to serve the student, to protect students and staff, or as otherwise required by law, and only to the student or the student's parent or guardian;

20. To the principal where the student attends if it is information from a peace officer's record of children received by an executive director under Minnesota Statutes section 260B.171, subdivision 5. The principal must place the information in the student's education record. The principal also must notify immediately any teacher, counselor, or administrator directly supervising the student whom the principal believes needs the information to work with the student in an appropriate manner, to avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or to protect other persons from needless vulnerability. The principal may also notify other district employees, substitutes, and volunteers who are in direct contact with the student if the principal determines that these individuals need the information to work with the student in an appropriate manner, to avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or to protect other persons from needless vulnerability. Such notices from the principal must identify the student and describe the alleged offense if this information is provided in the peace officer's notice. Peace officer's record information received is private educational data received for the limited purpose of serving the educational needs of the student and protecting students and staff. The information must not be further disseminated by the counselor, teacher administrator, staff member, substitute, or volunteer except to communicate with the student or the student's parent or guardian as necessary to serve the student, to protect students and staff, or as otherwise required by law.

The principal must delete the peace officer's record from the student's education record, destroy the data, and make reasonable efforts to notify any teacher, counselor, staff member, administrator, substitute, or volunteer who received information from the peace officer's record if the county attorney determines not to proceed with a petition or directs the student into a diversion or mediation program or if a juvenile court makes a decision on a petition and the county attorney or juvenile court notifies the executive director of such action;

21. To the Secretary of Agriculture, or authorized representative from the Food and Nutrition Service or contractors acting on behalf of the Food and

Nutrition Service, for the purposes of conducting program monitoring, evaluations, and performance measurements of state and local educational and other agencies and institutions receiving funding or providing benefits of one or more programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 for which the results will be reported in an aggregate form that does not identify any individual, on the conditions that: (a) any data collected shall be protected in a manner that will not permit the personal identification of students and their parents by other than the authorized representatives of the Secretary; and (b) any personally identifiable data shall be destroyed when the data are no longer needed for program monitoring, evaluations, and performance measurements; or

22. To an agency caseworker or other representative of a State or local child welfare agency, or tribal organization (as defined in 25 United States Code section 5304), who has the right to access a student's case plan, as defined and determined by the State or tribal organization, when such agency or organization is legally responsible, in accordance with State or tribal law, for the care and protection of the student, provided that the education records, or the personally identifiable information contained in such records, of the student will not be disclosed by such agency or organization, except to an individual or entity engaged in addressing the student's education needs and authorized by such agency or organization to receive such disclosure and such disclosure is consistent with the State or tribal laws applicable to protecting the confidentiality of a student's education records.
23. When requested, educational agencies or institutions may share personal student contact information and directory information for students served in special education with postsecondary transition planning for services under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.08 paragraph (b), clause (1), whether public or private, with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, as required for coordination of services to students with disabilities under Minnesota Statutes, sections 125A.08, paragraph (b), clause (1); 125A.023; and 125A.027.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision.]**

C. Nonpublic School Students

The education district may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a nonpublic school student, other than a student who receives shared time educational services, without the written consent of the parent of the student or the eligible student unless otherwise provided herein, if the disclosure is:

1. Pursuant to a valid court order;

2. Pursuant to a statute specifically authorizing access to the private data; or
3. To appropriate health authorities to the extent necessary to administer immunization programs and for bona fide epidemiological investigations which the commissioner of health determines are necessary to prevent disease or disability to individuals in the public educational agency or institution in which the investigation is being conducted.

## VII. RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

### A. Educational Data

1. Educational data designated as directory information is public data on individuals to the extent required under federal law. Directory information must be designated pursuant to the provisions of:

- a. Minnesota Statutes, section 13.32, subdivision 5; and
- b. 20 United States Code, section 1232g, and 34 Code of Federal Regulations, section 99.37, which were in effect on January 3, 2012.

2. The school district may not designate a student's home address, telephone number, email address, or other personal contact information as directory information under this section.

3. When requested, the school district must share personal contact information and directory information, whether public or private, with the Minnesota Department of Education, as required for federal reporting purposes.

**[NOTE: This section became effective on the day following final enactment (May 19, 2023). Beginning on the effective date, a student's personal contact information subject to this section must be treated as private educational data under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.32, regardless of whether that contact information was previously designated as directory information under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.32, subdivision 5].**

### B. Former Students

Unless a former student validly opted out of the release of directory information while the student was in attendance and has not rescinded the opt out request at any time, the education district may disclose directory information from the education records generated by it regarding the former student without meeting

the requirements of Paragraph C. of this section. In addition, under an explicit exclusion from the definition of an “education record,” the education district may release records that only contain information about an individual obtained after he or she is no longer a student at the education district and that are not directly related to the individual’s attendance as a student (e.g., a student’s activities as an alumnus of the education district).

C. Present Students and Parents

The education district may disclose directory information from the education records of a student and information regarding parents without prior written consent of the parent of the student or eligible student, except as provided herein. Prior to such disclosure the education district shall:

1. Annually give public notice by any means that are reasonably likely to inform the parents and eligible students of:
  - a. the types of personally identifiable information regarding students and/or parents that the education district has designated as directory information;
  - b. the parent’s or eligible student’s right to refuse to let the education district designate any or all of those types of information about the student and/or the parent as directory information; and
  - c. the period of time in which a parent or eligible student has to notify the education district in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student and/or the parent designated as directory information.

***[Note: Federal law allows an education district to specify that the disclosure of directory information will be limited to specific parties, for specific purposes, or both. If the education district chooses to impose these limitations, it is advisable to add a new paragraph VII.C.1.d. that specifies that disclosures of directory information will be limited to specific parties and/or for specific purposes and identify those parties and/or purposes. To the extent an education district adds these restrictions, it must then limit its directory information disclosures to those individuals and/or purposes specified in this public notice. Procedures to address how these restrictions will be enforced by the education district are advised. This is an important policy decision for the local education district board which must balance not only the privacy interests of the student against public disclosure, but also the additional administrative requirements such restrictions will place on the education district.]***



2. Allow a reasonable period of time after such notice has been given for a parent or eligible student to inform the education district in writing that any or all of the information so designated should not be disclosed without the parent's or eligible student's prior written consent, except as provided in Section VI. of this policy.
3. A parent or eligible student may not opt out of the directory information disclosures to:
  - a. prevent the education district from disclosing or requiring the student to disclose the student's name, ID, or education district e-mail address in a class in which the student is enrolled; or
  - b. prevent the education district from requiring a student to wear, to display publicly, or to disclose a student ID card or badge that exhibits information that may be designated as directory information and that has been properly designated by the education district as directory information.
4. The education district shall not disclose or confirm directory information without meeting the written consent requirements contained in Section VI.A. of this policy if a student's social security number or other non-directory information is used alone or in combination with other data elements to identify or help identify the student or the student's records.

D. Procedure for Obtaining Nondisclosure of Directory Information

The parent's or eligible student's written notice shall be directed to the responsible authority and shall include the following:

1. Name of the student and/or parent, as appropriate;
2. Home address;
3. School presently attended by student;
4. Parent's legal relationship to student, if applicable; and
5. Specific categories of directory information to be made not public without the parent's or eligible student's prior written consent, which shall only be applicable for that school year.

E. Duration

The designation of any information as directory information about a student or parents will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year unless the parent or eligible student provides the written notifications provided herein.

## VIII. DISCLOSURE OF PRIVATE RECORDS

### A. Private Records

For the purposes herein, education records are records which are classified as private data on individuals by state law and which are accessible only to the student who is the subject of the data and the student's parent if the student is not an eligible student. The education district may not disclose private records or their contents except as summary data, or except as provided in Section VI. of this policy, without the prior written consent of the parent or the eligible student. The education district will use reasonable methods to identify and authenticate the identity of parents, students, education district officials, and any other party to whom personally identifiable information from education records is disclosed.

### B. Private Records Not Accessible to Parent

In certain cases, state law intends, and clearly provides, that certain information contained in the education records of the education district pertaining to a student be accessible to the student alone, and to the parent only under special circumstances, if at all.

1. The responsible authority may deny access to private data by a parent when a minor student who is the subject of that data requests that the responsible authority deny such access. The minor student's request must be submitted in writing setting forth the reasons for denying access to the parent and must be signed by the minor. Upon receipt of such request the responsible authority shall determine if honoring the request to deny the parent access would be in the best interest of the minor data subject. In making this determination the responsible authority shall consider the following factors:
  - a. whether the minor is of sufficient age and maturity to be able to explain the reasons for and understand the consequences of the request to deny access;
  - b. whether the personal situation of the minor is such that denying parental access may protect the minor data subject from physical or emotional harm;
  - c. whether there are grounds for believing that the minor data subject's reasons for precluding parental access are reasonably accurate;
  - d. whether the data in question is of such a nature that disclosure of it to the parent may lead to physical or emotional harm to the minor

data subject; and

- e. whether the data concerns medical, dental or other health services provided pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 144.341-144.347, in which case the data may be released only if the failure to inform the parent would seriously jeopardize the health of the minor.

C. Private Records Not Accessible to Student

Students shall not be entitled to access to private data concerning financial records and statements of the student's parent or any information contained therein.

D. Military-Connected Youth Identifier

When an education district updates its enrollment forms in the ordinary course of business, the education district must include a box on the enrollment form to allow students to self-identify as a military-connected youth. For purposes of this section, a "military-connected youth" means having an immediate family member, including a parent or sibling, who is currently in the armed forces either as a reservist or on active duty or has recently retired from the armed forces. Data collected under this provision is private data on individuals, but summary data may be published by the Department of Education.

## IX. DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

A. Confidential Records

Confidential records are those records and data contained therein which are made not public by state or federal law, and which are inaccessible to the student and the student's parents or to an eligible student.

B. Reports Under the Maltreatment of Minors Reporting Act

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 260E , written copies of reports pertaining to a neglected and/or physically and/or sexually abused child shall be accessible only to the appropriate welfare and law enforcement agencies. In respect to other parties, such data shall be confidential and will not be made available to the parent or the subject individual by the education district. The subject individual, however, may obtain a copy of the report from either the local welfare agency, county sheriff, or the local police department subject to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 260E.

Regardless of whether a written report is made under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 260E, as soon as practicable after a school receives information regarding an incident that may constitute maltreatment of a child in a school facility, the school shall inform the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child that an incident occurred that may constitute maltreatment of the child, when the incident

occurred, and the nature of the conduct that may constitute maltreatment.

C. Investigative Data

Data collected by the education district as part of an active investigation undertaken for the purpose of the commencement or defense of pending civil legal action, or are retained in anticipation of a pending civil legal action are classified as protected nonpublic data in the case of data not on individuals, and confidential data in the case of data on individuals.

1. The education district may make any data classified as protected non-public or confidential pursuant to this subdivision accessible to any person, agency, or the public if the education district determines that such access will aid the law enforcement process, promote public health or safety, or dispel widespread rumor or unrest.
2. A complainant has access to a statement he or she provided to the education district.
3. Parents or eligible students may have access to investigative data of which the student is the subject, but only to the extent the data is not inextricably intertwined with data about other education district students, education district employees, and/or attorney data as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 13.393.
4. Once a civil investigation becomes inactive, civil investigative data becomes public unless the release of the data would jeopardize another pending civil legal action, except for those portions of such data that are classified as not public data under state or federal law. Any civil investigative data presented as evidence in court or made part of a court record shall be public. For purposes of this provision, a civil investigation becomes inactive upon the occurrence of any of the following events:
  - a. a decision by the education district, or by the chief attorney for the education district, not to pursue the civil legal action. However, such investigation may subsequently become active if the education district or its attorney decides to renew the civil legal action;
  - b. the expiration of the time to file a complaint under the statute of limitations or agreement applicable to the civil legal action; or
  - c. the exhaustion or expiration of rights of appeal by either party to the civil legal action.
5. A “pending civil legal action” for purposes of this subdivision is defined as including, but not limited to, judicial, administrative, or arbitration

proceedings.

D. Chemical Abuse Records

To the extent the education district maintains records of the identity, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of any student which are maintained in connection with the performance of any drug abuse prevention function conducted, regulated, or directly or indirectly assisted by any department or agency of the United States, such records are classified as confidential and shall be disclosed only for the purposes and under the circumstances expressly authorized by law.

**X. DISCLOSURE OF SCHOOL RECORDS PRIOR TO EXCLUSION OR EXPULSION HEARING**

At a reasonable time prior to any exclusion or expulsion hearing, the student and the student's parent or guardian or representative shall be given access to all education district records pertaining to the student, including any tests or reports upon which the action proposed by the education district may be based, pursuant to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes section 121A.40, *et seq.*

**XI. DISCLOSURE OF DATA TO MILITARY RECRUITING OFFICERS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

A. The education district will release the names, addresses, electronic mail address (which shall be the electronic mail addresses provided by the education district, if available, that may be released to military recruiting officers only), and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions within sixty (60) days after the date of the request unless a parent or eligible student has refused in writing to release this data pursuant to Paragraph C. below.

B. Data released to military recruiting officers under this provision:

1. may be used only for the purpose of providing information to students about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits, and other career and educational opportunities provided by the military;
2. cannot be further disseminated to any other person except personnel of the recruiting services of the armed forces; and
3. copying fees shall not be imposed.

C. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse the release of the name, address, electronic mail addresses (which shall be the electronic mail addresses

provided by the school, if available, that may be released to military recruiting officers only) or home telephone number to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions. To refuse the release of the above information to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions, a parent or eligible student must notify the responsible authority in writing by October 1st each year. The written request must include the following information:

1. Name of student and parent, as appropriate;
  2. Home address;
  3. Student's grade level;
  4. School presently attended by student;
  5. Parent's legal relationship to student, if applicable;
  6. Specific category or categories of information which are not to be released to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions; and
  7. Specific category or categories of information which are not to be released to the public, including military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions.
- D. Annually, the education district will provide public notice by any means that are reasonably likely to inform the parents and eligible students of their rights to refuse to release the names, addresses, and home phone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 without prior consent.
- E. A parent or eligible student's refusal to release the above information to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions does not affect the education district's release of directory information to the rest of the public, which includes military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions. In order to make any directory information about a student private, the procedures contained in Section VII. of this policy also must be followed. Accordingly, to the extent the education district has designated the name, address, home phone number, and grade level of students as directory information, absent a request from a parent or eligible student not to release such data, this information will be public data and accessible to members of the public, including military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions.

## XII. LIMITS ON REDISCLOSURE

### A. Redisdisclosure

Consistent with the requirements herein, the education district may only disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student on the condition that the party to whom the information is to be disclosed will not disclose the information to any other party without the prior written consent of the parent of the student or the eligible student, except that the officers, employees, and agents of any party receiving personally identifiable information under this section may use the information, but only for the purposes for which the disclosure was made.

### B. Redisdisclosure Not Prohibited

1. Subdivision A. of this section does not prevent the education district from disclosing personally identifiable information under Section VI. of this policy with the understanding that the party receiving the information may make further disclosures of the information on behalf of the education district provided:
  - a. The disclosures meet the requirements of Section VI. of this policy; and
  - b. The education district has complied with the record-keeping requirements of Section XIII. of this policy.
2. Subdivision A. of this section does not apply to disclosures made pursuant to court orders or lawfully issued subpoenas or litigation, to disclosures of directory information, to disclosures to a parent or student or to parents of dependent students, or to disclosures concerning sex offenders and other individuals required to register under 42 United States Code section 14071. However, the education district must provide the notification required in Section XII.D. of this policy if a redisclosure is made based upon a court order or lawfully issued subpoena.

***[Note: 42 United States Code section§ 14071 was repealed. Education districts should retain this statutory reference, however, as it remains a reference in FERPA and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and still may apply to individuals required to register prior to the repeal of this law.]***

### C. Classification of Disclosed Data

The information disclosed shall retain the same classification in the hands of the party receiving it as it had in the hands of the education district.

D. Notification

The education district shall inform the party to whom a disclosure is made of the requirements set forth in this section, except for disclosures made pursuant to court orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosure of directory information under Section VII. of this policy, disclosures to a parent or student, or disclosures to parents of a dependent student. In the event that the Family Policy Compliance Office determines that a state or local educational authority, a federal agency headed by an official listed in 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3), or an authorized representative of a state or local educational authority or a federal agency headed by an official listed in section 99.31(a)(3), or a third party outside of the education district improperly rediscloses personally identifiable information from education records or fails to provide notification required under this section of this policy, the education district may not allow that third party access to personally identifiable information from education records for at least five (5) years.

**XIII. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY; RECORD SECURITY; AND RECORD KEEPING**

A. Responsible Authority

The responsible authority shall be responsible for the maintenance and security of student records.

B. Record Security

The principal of each school subject to the supervision and control of the responsible authority shall be the records manager of the school, and shall have the duty of maintaining and securing the privacy and/or confidentiality of student records.

C. Plan for Securing Student Records

The building principal shall submit to the responsible authority a written plan for securing students records by September 1 of each school year. The written plan shall contain the following information:

1. A description of records maintained;
2. Titles and addresses of person(s) responsible for the security of student records;
3. Location of student records, by category, in the buildings;
4. Means of securing student records; and



5. Procedures for access and disclosure.

D. Review of Written Plan for Securing Student Records

The responsible authority shall review the plans submitted pursuant to Paragraph C. of this section for compliance with the law, this policy, and the various administrative policies of the education district. The responsible authority shall then promulgate a chart incorporating the provisions of Paragraph C. which shall be attached to and become a part of this policy.

E. Record Keeping

1. The principal shall, for each request for and each disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records of a student, maintain a record, with the education records of the student, that indicates:
  - a. the parties who have requested or received personally identifiable information from the education records of the student;
  - b. the legitimate interests these parties had in requesting or obtaining the information; and
  - c. the names of the state and local educational authorities and federal officials and agencies listed in Section VI.B.4. of this policy that may make further disclosures of personally identifiable information from the student's education records without consent.
2. In the event the education district discloses personally identifiable information from an education record of a student pursuant to Section XII.B. of this policy, the record of disclosure required under this section shall also include:
  - a. the names of the additional parties to which the receiving party may disclose the information on behalf of the education district;
  - b. the legitimate interests under Section VI. of this policy which each of the additional parties has in requesting or obtaining the information; and
  - c. a copy of the record of further disclosures maintained by a state or local educational authority or federal official or agency listed in Section VI.B.4. of this policy in accordance with 34 Code of Federal Regulations section 99.32 and to whom the education district disclosed information from an education record. The school district shall request a copy of the record of further disclosures from a state or local educational authority or federal official or agency to whom education records were disclosed upon

a request from a parent or eligible student to review the record of requests for disclosure.

3. Section XIII.E.1. does not apply to requests by or disclosure to a parent of a student or an eligible student, disclosures pursuant to the written consent of a parent of a student or an eligible student, requests by or disclosures to other education district officials under Section VI.B.1. of this policy, to requests for disclosures of directory information under Section VII. of this policy, or to a party seeking or receiving the records as directed by a federal grand jury or other law enforcement subpoena and the issuing court or agency has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena or the information provided in response to the subpoena not be disclosed or as directed by an ex parte court order obtained by the United States Attorney General (or designee not lower than an Assistant Attorney General) concerning investigations or prosecutions of an offense listed in 18 United States Code section 2332b(g)(5)(B) or an act of domestic or international terrorism.

***[Note: While Section XIII.E. 1. does not apply to requests for or disclosures of directory information under Section VII. of this policy, to the extent the education district chooses to limit the disclosure of directory information to specific parties, for specific purposes, or both, it is advisable that records be kept to identify the party to whom the disclosure was made and/or purpose for the disclosure.]***

4. The record of requests of disclosures may be inspected by:
  - a. the parent of the student or the eligible student;
  - b. the education district official or his or her assistants who are responsible for the custody of the records; and
  - c. the parties authorized by law to audit the record-keeping procedures of the education district.
5. The education district shall record the following information when it discloses personally identifiable information from education records under the health or safety emergency exception:
  - a. the articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individual that formed the basis for the disclosure; and
  - b. the parties to whom the education district disclosed the information.

6. The record of requests and disclosures shall be maintained with the education records of the student as long as the education district maintains the student's education records.

#### **XIV. RIGHT TO INSPECT AND REVIEW EDUCATION RECORDS**

A. Parent of a Student, an Eligible Student or the Parent of an Eligible Student Who is Also a Dependent Student

The education district shall permit the parent of a student, an eligible student, or the parent of an eligible student who is also a dependent student who is or has been in attendance in the education district to inspect or review the education records of the student, except those records which are made confidential by state or federal law or as otherwise provided in Section VIII. of this policy.

B. Response to Request for Access

The education district shall respond to any request pursuant to Subdivision A. of this section immediately, if possible, or within ten (10) days of the date of the request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

C. Right to Inspect and Review

The right to inspect and review education records under Subdivision A. of this section includes:

1. The right to a response from the education district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of records; and
2. If circumstances effectively prevent the parent or eligible student from exercising the right to inspect and review the education records, the education district shall provide the parent or eligible student with a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or eligible student to inspect and review the requested records.
3. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting the frequency of inspection of the education records of a student with a disability by the student's parent or guardian or by the student upon the student reaching the age of majority.

D. Form of Request

Parents or eligible students shall submit to the education district a written request to inspect education records which identify as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect.

E. Collection of Student Records

If a student's education records are maintained in more than one location, the responsible authority may collect copies of the records or the records themselves from the various locations so they may be inspected at one site. However, if the parent or eligible student wishes to inspect these records where they are maintained, the education district shall attempt to accommodate those wishes. The parent or eligible student shall be notified of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

F. Records Containing Information on More Than One Student

If the education records of a student contain information on more than one student, the parent or eligible student may inspect and review or be informed of only the specific information which pertains to that student.

G. Authority to Inspect or Review

The education district may presume that either parent of the student has authority to inspect or review the education records of a student unless the education district has been provided with evidence that there is a legally binding instrument or a state law or court order governing such matters as marriage dissolution, separation, or custody which provides to the contrary.

H. Fees for Copies of Records

1. The education district shall charge a reasonable fee for providing photocopies or printed copies of records unless printing a copy is the only method to provide for the inspection of data. In determining the amount of the reasonable fee, the education district shall consider the following:
  - a. the cost of materials, including paper, used to provide the copies;
  - b. the cost of the labor required to prepare the copies;
  - c. any schedule of standard copying charges established by the education district in its normal course of operations;
  - d. any special costs necessary to produce such copies from machine-based record-keeping systems, including but not limited to computers and microfilm systems; and
  - e. mailing costs.
2. If 100 or fewer pages of black and white, letter or legal size paper copies are requested, actual costs shall not be used, and, instead, the charge shall be no more than 25 cents for each page copied.

3. The cost of providing copies shall be borne by the parent or eligible student.
4. The responsible authority, however, may not impose a fee for a copy of an education record made for a parent or eligible student if doing so would effectively prevent or, in the case of a student with a disability, impair the parent or eligible student from exercising their right to inspect or review the student's education records.

## **XV. REQUEST TO AMEND RECORDS; PROCEDURES TO CHALLENGE DATA**

### **A. Request to Amend Education Records**

The parent of a student or an eligible student who believes that information contained in the education records of the student is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy rights of the student may request that the education district amend those records.

1. The request shall be in writing, shall identify the item the requestor believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, shall state the reason for this belief, and shall specify the correction the requestor wishes the education district to make. The request shall be signed and dated by the requestor.
2. The education district shall decide whether to amend the education records of the student in accordance with the request within thirty (30) days after receiving the request.
3. If the education district decides to refuse to amend the education records of the student in accordance with the request, it shall inform the parent of the student or the eligible student of the refusal and advise the parent or eligible student of the right to a hearing under Subdivision B. of this section.

### **B. Right to a Hearing**

If the education district refuses to amend the education records of a student, the education district, on request, shall provide an opportunity for a hearing in order to challenge the content of the student's education records to ensure that information in the education records of the student is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student. A hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Subdivision C. of this section.

1. If, as a result of the hearing, the education district decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the

privacy or other rights of the student, it shall amend the education records of the student accordingly and so inform the parent of the student or the eligible student in writing.

2. If, as a result of the hearing, the education district decides that the information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, it shall inform the parent or eligible student of the right to place a statement in the record commenting on the contested information in the record or stating why he or she disagrees with the decision of the education district, or both.
3. Any statement placed in the education records of the student under Subdivision B. of this section shall:
  - a. be maintained by the education district as part of the education records of the student so long as the record or contested portion thereof is maintained by the education district; and
  - b. if the education records of the student or the contested portion thereof is disclosed by the education district to any party, the explanation shall also be disclosed to that party.

C. Conduct of Hearing

1. The hearing shall be held within a reasonable period of time after the education district has received the request, and the parent of the student or the eligible student shall be given notice of the date, place, and time reasonably in advance of the hearing.
2. The hearing may be conducted by any individual, including an official of the education district who does not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing. The education district board attorney shall be in attendance to present the education district board's position and advise the designated hearing officer on legal and evidentiary matters.
3. The parent of the student or eligible student shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity for hearing to present evidence relative to the issues raised under Subdivisions A. and B. of this section and may be assisted or represented by individuals of his or her choice at his or her own expense, including an attorney.
4. The education district shall make a decision in writing within a reasonable period of time after the conclusion of the hearing. The decision shall be based solely on evidence presented at the hearing and shall include a summary of evidence and reasons for the decision.

D. Appeal

The final decision of the designated hearing officer may be appealed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Minnesota Statutes chapter 14 relating to contested cases.

## **XVI. PROBLEMS ACCESSING DATA**

- A. The data practices compliance official is the designated employee to whom persons may direct questions or concerns regarding problems in obtaining access to data or other data practices problems.
- B. Data practices compliance official means Executive Director, Cheryl Johnson
- C. Any request by an individual with a disability for reasonable modifications of the education district's policies or procedures for purposes of accessing records shall be made to the data practices compliance official.

## **XVII. COMPLAINTS FOR NON COMPLIANCE WITH FERPA**

### **A. Where to File Complaints**

Complaints regarding alleged violations of rights accorded parents and eligible students by FERPA, and the rules promulgated thereunder, shall be submitted in writing to the U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-8520.

### **B. Content of Complaint**

A complaint filed pursuant to this section must contain specific allegations of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a violation of FERPA and the rules promulgated thereunder has occurred.

## **XVIII. WAIVER**

A parent or eligible student may waive any of his or her rights provided herein pursuant to FERPA. A waiver shall not be valid unless in writing and signed by the parent or eligible student. The education district may not require such a waiver.

## **XIX. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS**

### **A. Contents of Notice**

The education district shall give parents of students currently in attendance and eligible students currently in attendance annual notice by such means as are reasonably likely to inform the parents and eligible students of the following:

1. That the parent or eligible student has a right to inspect and review the student's education records and the procedure for inspecting and reviewing education records;
2. That the parent or eligible student has a right to seek amendment of the student's education records to ensure that those records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights and the procedure for requesting amendment of records;
3. That the parent or eligible student has a right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that federal and state law and the regulations promulgated thereunder authorize disclosure without consent;
4. That the parent or eligible student has a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged failure by the education district to comply with the requirements of FERPA and the rules promulgated thereunder;
5. The criteria for determining who constitutes an education district official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest for purposes of disclosing education records to other education district officials whom the education district has determined to have legitimate educational interests; and
6. That the education district forwards education records on request to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer and that such records may include suspension and expulsion records pursuant to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and, if applicable, a student's history of violent behavior.

B. Notification to Parents of Students Having a Primary Home Language Other Than English

The education district shall provide for the need to effectively notify parents of students identified as having a primary or home language other than English.

C. Notification to Parents or Eligible Students Who are Disabled

The education district shall provide for the need to effectively notify parents or eligible students identified as disabled.

**XX. DESTRUCTION AND RETENTION OF RECORDS**

Destruction and retention of records by the education district shall be controlled by state and federal law.



## XXI. COPIES OF POLICY

Copies of this policy may be obtained by parents and eligible students at the executive director's office.

- Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.393 (Attorneys)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 14 (Administrative Procedures Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (The Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.75 (Receipt of Records; Sharing)  
Minn. Stat. § 127A.852 (Military-Connected Youth Identifier)  
Minn. Stat. § 144.341-144.347 (Consent of Minors for Health Services)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 256B (Medical Assistance for Needy Persons)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 256L (MinnesotaCare)  
Minn. Stat. § 260B.171, Subds. 3 and 5 (Disposition Order and Peace Officer Records of Children)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)  
Minn. Stat. § 363A.42 (Public Records; Accessibility)  
[Minn. Stat. § 480.40 \(Personal Information, Dissemination\)](#)  
Minn. Stat. § 626.557 (Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
Minn. Rules Parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 (Data Practices)  
10 U.S.C. § 503(b) and (c) (Enlistments: Recruiting Campaigns; Compilation of Directory Information)  
18 U.S.C. § 2331 (Definitions)  
18 U.S.C. § 2332b (Acts of Terrorism Transcending National Boundaries)  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g *et seq.* (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 6301 *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 7908 (Armed Forces Recruiting Information)  
20 U.S.C. § 7917 (Transfer of School Disciplinary Records)  
25 U.S.C. § 5304 (Definitions – Tribal Organization)  
26 U.S.C. §§ 151 and 152 (Internal Revenue Code)  
42 U.S.C. § 1711 *et seq.* (Child Nutrition Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act)  
34 C.F.R. §§ 99.1-99.67 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy)  
34 C.F.R. § 300.610-300.627 (Confidentiality of Information)  
42 C.F.R. § 2.1 *et seq.* (Confidentiality of Drug Abuse Patient Records)  
*Gonzaga University v. Doe*, 536 U.S. 273 309 (2002)  
Dept. of Admin. Advisory Op. No. 21-008 (December 8, 2021)
- Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 520 (Student Surveys)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 711 (Video Recording on School Buses)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 722 (Public Data Requests)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 906 (Community Notification of Predatory Offenders)

MSBA School Law Bulletin "I" (School Records – Privacy – Access to Data)

## 516 STUDENT MEDICATION AND TELEHEALTH

*[Note: The necessary provisions for complying with Minnesota Statutes sections 121A.22, Administration of Drugs and Medicine, 121A.221, Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers by Asthmatic Students, and 121A.222, Possession and Use of Nonprescription Pain Relievers by Secondary Students are included in this policy. The statutes do not regulate administration of drugs and medicine for students age 18 and over or other nonprescription medications. Please note that §121A.22 does not require school districts to apply the administration of medication rule to drugs or medicine used off school grounds, drugs or medicines used in connection with athletics or extra-curricular activities, and drugs and medicines that are used in connection with activities that occur before or after the regular school day.]*

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the provisions that must be followed when administering nonemergency prescription medication to students at school.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The education district acknowledges that some students may require prescribed drugs or medication or telehealth during the school day. The education district's licensed school nurse, trained health clerk, principal, or teacher will administer prescribed medications, except any form of medical cannabis, in accordance with law and education district procedures.

### III. DRUG AND MEDICATION REQUIREMENTS

**[NOTE: The June 2024 Model Policy 516 revisions include insertion of headings and rearrangement of paragraphs so that similar content is grouped together. School boards can choose whether to make these revisions.]**

#### A. Administration of Drugs and Medicine

1. The administration of ~~prescription~~ medication or drugs at school requires a completed signed request from the student's parent. An oral request must be reduced to writing within two school days, provided that the education district may rely on an oral request until a written request is received.
2. Drugs and medicine subject to Minnesota Statutes, 121A.22 must be

administered, to the extent possible, according to school board procedures that must be developed in consultation with:

- a. with a licensed nurse, in a district that employs a licensed nurse under Minnesota Statutes, section 148.171;
- b. with a licensed school nurse, in a district that employs a licensed school nurse licensed under Minnesota Rules, part 8710.6100;
- c. with a public or private health-related organization, in a district that contracts with a public or private health or health-related organization, according to Minnesota Statutes, 121A.21; or
- d. with the appropriate party, in a district that has an arrangement approved by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education, according to Minnesota Statutes, 121A.21.

**[NOTE: Paragraph III.A.2 had appeared in a different spot in previous versions of this model policy. In June 2024, the paragraph is located here and is updated to reflect 2024 legislative changes.]**

3. Exclusions

**[Note: The provisions of III.A.3 are optional. The school board may choose to include or exclude any of the provisions specified. These exclusions appeared in previous versions of this model policy.]**

The provisions on administration of drugs and medicine above do not apply to drugs or medicine that are:

- a. purchased without a prescription;
- b. used by a pupil who is 18 years old or older;
- c. used in connection with services for which a minor may give effective consent;
- d. used in situations in which, in the judgment of the school personnel, including a licensed nurse, who are present or available, the risk to the pupil's life or health is of such a nature that drugs or medicine should be given without delay;
- e. used off the school grounds;

- f. used in connection with athletics or extracurricular activities;
- g. used in connection with activities that occur before or after the regular school day;
- h. provided or administered by a public health agency to prevent or control an illness or a disease outbreak as provided under Minnesota law;
- i. prescription asthma or reactive airway disease medications can be self-administered by a student with an asthma inhaler if:
  - a. the education district has received a written authorization each school year from the pupil's parent permitting the student to self-administer the medication;
  - b. the inhaler is properly labeled for that student; and
  - c. the parent has not requested school personnel to administer the medication to the student.

In a school that does not have a school nurse or school nursing services, the student's parent or guardian must submit written verification from the prescribing professional which documents that an assessment of the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting has been completed.

If the school district employs a school nurse or provides school nursing services under another arrangement, the school nurse or other appropriate party must assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting and enter into the student's school health record a plan to implement safe possession and use of asthma inhalers.

- j. epinephrine auto-injectors, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.2205, if the parent and prescribing medical professional annually inform the pupil's school in writing that
  - a. the pupil may possess the epinephrine or
  - b. the pupil is unable to possess the epinephrine and requires immediate access to epinephrine auto-injectors that the parent provides properly

labeled to the school for the pupil as needed.

- k. For the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, 121A.22, special health treatments and health functions, such as catheterization, tracheostomy suctioning, and gastrostomy feedings, do not constitute administration of drugs or medicine.
- l. Emergency health procedures, including emergency administration of drugs and medicine are not subject to this policy.

## B. Prescription Medication

1. An “Administering Prescription Medications” form must be completed annually (once per school year) and/or when a change in the prescription or requirements for administration occurs. Prescription medication as used in this policy does not include any form of medical cannabis as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 152.22, Subd. 6.

~~C~~2. Prescription medication must come to school in the original container labeled for the student by a pharmacist in accordance with law, and must be administered in a manner consistent with the instructions on the label.

~~D~~3. The school nurse may request to receive further information about the prescription, if needed, prior to administration of the substance.

~~E~~4. Prescription medications are not to be carried by the student, but will be left with the appropriate education district personnel. Exceptions to this requirement are: prescription asthma medications self-administered with an inhaler (See ~~Part J.5. below~~ Paragraph III.A.3(i) above), and medications administered as noted in a written agreement between the education district and the parent or as specified in an IEP (individualized education program), Section 504 plan, or IHP (individual health plan).

~~F~~5. The school must be notified immediately by the parent or student 18 years old or older in writing of any change in the student’s prescription medication administration. A new medical authorization or container label with new pharmacy instructions shall be required immediately as well.

6. The school nurse, or other designated person, shall be responsible for the filing of the Administering Prescription Medications form in the health records section of the student file. The school nurse, or other designated person, shall be responsible for providing a copy of such form to the principal and to other personnel

designated to administer the medication.

G7. For drugs or medicine used by children with a disability, administration may be as provided in the IEP, Section 504 plan or IHP.

H. The school nurse, or other designated person, shall be responsible for the filing of the Administering Prescription Medications form in the health records section of the student file. The school nurse, or other designated person, shall be responsible for providing a copy of such form to the principal and to other personnel designated to administer the medication.

I. ~~Procedures for administration of drugs and medicine at school and school activities shall be developed in consultation with a school nurse, a licensed school nurse, or a public or private health organization or other appropriate party (if appropriately contracted by the education district under Minnesota Statutes section 121A.21). The education district administration shall submit these procedures and any additional guidelines and procedures necessary to implement this policy to the education district board for approval. Upon approval by the education district board, such guidelines and procedures shall be an addendum to this policy.~~

J. ~~Specific Exceptions:~~

1. ~~Special health treatments and health functions such as catheterization, tracheostomy suctioning, and gastrostomy feedings do not constitute administration of drugs and medicine;~~

2. ~~Emergency health procedures, including emergency administration of drugs and medicine are not subject to this policy;~~

3. ~~Drugs or medicine provided or administered by a public health agency to prevent or control an illness or a disease outbreak are not governed by this policy;~~

4. ~~Drugs or medicines used at school in connection with services for which a minor may give effective consent are not governed by this policy;~~

5. ~~Drugs or medicines that are prescription asthma or reactive airway disease medications can be self-administered by a student with an asthma inhaler if:~~

a. ~~the education district has received a written authorization from the pupil's parent permitting the student to self-administer the medication;~~

b. ~~the inhaler is properly labeled for that student; and~~

~~e. the parent has not requested education district personnel to administer the medication to the student.~~

~~The parent must submit written authorization for the student to self-administer the medication each school year. In a school that does not have a school nurse or school nursing services, the student's parent or guardian must submit written verification from the prescribing professional which documents that an assessment of the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting has been completed.~~

~~If the education district employs a school nurse or provides school nursing services under another arrangement, the school nurse or other appropriate party must assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting and enter into the student's school health record a plan to implement safe possession and use of asthma inhalers.~~

~~6. Medications:~~

~~a. that are used off school grounds;~~

~~b. that are used in connection with athletics or extracurricular activities; or~~

~~c. that are used in connection with activities that occur before or after the regular school day~~

~~are not governed by this policy.~~

~~*[Note: The provisions of paragraph 6 are optional and the education district board may choose to include or exclude any of the provisions specified.]*~~

7C. Nonprescription Medication. A secondary student may possess and use nonprescription pain relief in a manner consistent with the labeling, if the education district has received written authorization from the student's parent or guardian permitting the student to self-administer the medication. The parent or guardian must submit written authorization for the student to self-administer the medication each school year. The education district may revoke a student's privilege to possess and use nonprescription pain relievers if the education district determines that the student is abusing the privilege. This provision does not apply to the possession or use of any drug or product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as its sole active ingredient or as one of its active ingredients. Except as stated in this paragraph, only prescription medications are governed by this policy.

*[Note: Education districts should consult with licensed medical and nursing*



*personnel to address whether nonprescription medications will be allowed at elementary schools and whether and under what conditions school personnel will participate in storing or administering nonprescription medications.]*

#### 8D. Possession and Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

At the start of each school year or at the time a student enrolls in school, whichever is first, a student’s parent, school staff, including those responsible for student health care, and the prescribing medical professional must develop and implement an individualized written health plan for a student who is prescribed epinephrine auto-injectors that enables the student to:

- a1. possess epinephrine auto-injectors; or
- b2. if the parent and prescribing medical professional determine the student is unable to possess the epinephrine, have immediate access to epinephrine auto-injectors in close proximity to the student at all times during the instructional day.

For the purposes of this policy, “instructional day” is defined as eight hours for each student contact day.

**[NOTE: Minnesota law states that “the school board of the school district must define instructional day for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, 121A.2205.” A sample definition appears above. School districts can create a definition that fits their circumstances.]**

The plan must designate the education district staff responsible for implementing the student’s health plan, including recognizing anaphylaxis and administering epinephrine auto-injectors when required, consistent with state law. This health plan may be included in a student’s § Section 504 plan.

Districts and schools may obtain and possess epinephrine auto-injectors to be maintained and administered by school personnel, including a licensed nurse, to a student or other individual if, in good faith, it is determined that person is experiencing anaphylaxis regardless of whether the student or other individual has a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector. The administration of an epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.2207 is not the practice of medicine.

Effective July 1, 2024, registered nurses may administer epinephrine auto-injectors in a school setting according to a condition-specific protocol as authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 148.235, subdivision 8. Notwithstanding any limitation in Minnesota Statutes, sections 148.171 to 148.285, licensed practical nurses may administer epinephrine auto-injectors in a

school setting according to a condition-specific protocol that does not reference a specific patient and that specifies the circumstances under which the epinephrine auto-injector is to be administered, when caring for a patient whose condition falls within the protocol.

[NOTE: The paragraph above was signed into law in May 2024. It is new model policy language]

A district or school may enter into arrangements with manufacturers of epinephrine auto-injectors to obtain epinephrine auto-injectors at fair-market, free, or reduced prices. A third party, other than a manufacturer or supplier, may pay for a school's supply of epinephrine auto-injectors.

#### ~~9.E~~ Sunscreen

~~—~~A student may possess and apply a topical sunscreen product during the school day while on school property or at a school-sponsored event without a prescription, physician's note, or other documentation from a licensed health care professional. School personnel are not required to provide sunscreen or assist students in applying sunscreen.

~~K. "Parent" for students 18 years old or older is the student.~~

#### ~~LF~~. Procedure regarding unclaimed drugs or medications.

1. The education district has adopted the following procedure for the collections and transport of any unclaimed or abandoned prescription drugs or medications remaining in the possession of school personnel in accordance with this policy. Before the transportation of any prescription drug or medication under this policy, the education district shall make a reasonable attempt to return the unused prescription drug or medication to the student's parent or legal guardian. Transportation of unclaimed or unused prescription drugs or medications will occur at least annually, but may occur more frequently at the discretion of the education district.
2. If the unclaimed or abandoned prescription drug is not a controlled substance as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 152.01, subdivision 4, or is an over-the-counter medication, the education district will either designate an individual who shall be responsible for transporting the drug or medication to a designated drop-off box or collection site or request that a law enforcement agency transport the drug or medication to a drop-off box or collection site on behalf of the education district.
3. If the unclaimed or abandoned prescription drug is a controlled substance as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 152.01, subdivision 4, the education district or education district personnel is prohibited from transporting the prescription drug to a drop-off box or collection site for prescription drugs identified under

this paragraph. The education district must request that a law enforcement agency transport the prescription drug or medication to a collection bin that complies with Drug Enforcement Agency regulations, or is a site is not available, under the agency's procedure for transporting drugs.

#### IV. ACCESS TO SPACE FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE THROUGH TELEHEALTH

- A. Beginning October 1, 2024, to the extent space is available, the education district must provide an enrolled secondary school student with access during regular school hours, and to the extent staff is available, before or after the school day on days when students receive instruction at school, to space at the school site that a student may use to receive mental health care through telehealth from a student's licensed mental health provider. A secondary school must develop a plan with procedures to receive requests for access to the space.
- B. The space must provide a student privacy to receive mental health care.
- C. A student may use a education district-issued device to receive mental health care through telehealth if such use is consistent with the district or education district policy governing acceptable use of the education district-device.
- D. An education district may require a student requesting access to space under this section to submit to the education district a signed and dated consent from the student's parent or guardian, or from the student if the student is age 16 or older, authorizing the student's licensed mental health provider to release information from the student's health record that is requested by the education district to confirm the student is currently receiving mental health care from the provider. such a consent is valid for the school year in which it is submitted.

[NOTE: The Minnesota legislature enacted Article IV in the spring 2024.]

- Legal References:**
- Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.21 ( ~~Hiring of Health Personnel~~ School Health Services)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.216 (Access to Space for Mental Health Care through Telehealth)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.22 (Administration of Drugs and Medicine)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.2205 (Possession and Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors; Model Policy)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.2207 (Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools; Stock Supply of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.221 (Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers by Asthmatic Students)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.222 (Possession and Use of Nonprescription Pain Relievers by Secondary Students)
  - Minn. Stat. § 121A.223 (Possession and Use of Sunscreen)

Minn. Stat. § 148.171 (Definitions; Title)  
Minn. Stat. § 151.212 (Label of Prescription Drug Containers)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations)  
Minn. Rule 8710.6100 (School Nurse)  
20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)

***Cross References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)

## 521 STUDENT DISABILITY NONDISCRIMINATION

*[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]*

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect students with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability and to identify and evaluate learners who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), need services, accommodations, or programs in order that such learners may receive a free appropriate public education.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Students with disabilities who meet the criteria of Paragraph C. below are protected from discrimination on the basis of a disability.

B. The responsibility of the education district is to identify and evaluate learners who, within the intent of Section 504, need services, accommodations, or programs in order that such learners may receive a free appropriate public education.

C. For this policy, a learner who is protected under Section 504 is one who:

1. has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities; or
2. has a record of such an impairment; ~~or~~
3. is regarded as having such an impairment ; or
4. has an impairment that is episodic or in remission and would materially limit a major life activity when active.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature revised the definition of 'disability' in Minnesota Statutes, section 363.03, subdivision 12]

D. Learners may be protected from disability discrimination and be eligible for services, accommodations, or programs under the provisions of Section 504 even though they are not eligible for special education pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

### III. COORDINATOR

Persons who have questions or comments should contact Executive Director, Cherie Johnson, 395 Guernsey Ln., Red Wing, MN 55066, 651-388-4441. This person is the education district's Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504 coordinator. Persons who wish to make a complaint regarding a disability discrimination matter may use the accompanying Student Disability Discrimination Grievance Report Form. The form should be given to the ADA/Section 504 coordinator.

#### *Legal References:*

Minn. Stat. § 363A.03, Subd. 12 (Definitions)

42 U.S.C. Ch. 126 (Equal Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities)

29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)

34 C.F.R. Part 104 (Section 504 Implementing Regulations)

#### *Cross References:*

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)

**524 INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY, AND CELL PHONE ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY**

***[Note: Education districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]***

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and guidelines for access to the education district computer system and acceptable and safe use of the Internet, including electronic communications.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

In making decisions regarding student and employee access to the education district computer system and the Internet, including electronic communications, the education district considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the education district computer system and to the Internet enables students and employees to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources while exchanging messages with people around the world. The education district expects that faculty will blend thoughtful use of the education district computer system and the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in their use.

**III. LIMITED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE**

The education district is providing students and employees with access to the education district computer system, which includes Internet access. The purpose of the system is more specific than providing students and employees with general access to the Internet. The education district system has a limited educational purpose, which includes use of the system for classroom activities, educational research, and professional or career development activities. Users are expected to use Internet access through the district system to further educational and personal goals consistent with the mission of the education district and education policies. Uses which might be acceptable on a user's private personal account on another system may not be acceptable on this limited-purpose network.

**IV. USE OF SYSTEM IS A PRIVILEGE**

The use of the education district system and access to use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Depending on the nature and degree of the violation and the number of previous violations, unacceptable use of the education district system or the Internet may result in one or more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges; payments for damages and repairs; discipline under other appropriate education district policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or termination of employment; or civil or criminal liability under other applicable laws.

**V. UNACCEPTABLE USES**

A. While not an exhaustive list, the following uses of the education district system and Internet resources or accounts are considered unacceptable:

1. Users will not use the education district system to access, review, upload, download, store, print, post, receive, transmit, or distribute:

- a. pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material or other visual depictions that are harmful to minors;
  - b. obscene, abusive, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually explicit language;
  - c. materials that use language or images that are inappropriate in the education setting or disruptive to the educational process;
  - d. information or materials that could cause damage or danger of disruption to the educational process;
  - e. materials that use language or images that advocate violence or discrimination toward other people (hate literature) or that may constitute harassment or discrimination.
2. Users will not use the education district system to knowingly or recklessly post, transmit, or distribute false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or to harass another person, or to engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
  3. Users will not use the education district system to engage in any illegal act or violate any local, state, or federal statute or law.
  4. Users will not use the education district system to vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization, will not make deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt equipment, software, or system performance by spreading computer viruses or by any other means, will not tamper with, modify, or change the education district system software, hardware, or wiring or take any action to violate the education district's security system, and will not use the education district system in such a way as to disrupt the use of the system by other users.
  5. Users will not use the education district system to gain unauthorized access to information resources or to access another person's materials, information, or files without the implied or direct permission of that person.
  6. Users will not use the education district system to post private information about another person, personal contact information about themselves or other persons, or other personally identifiable information, including, but not limited to, addresses, telephone numbers, school addresses, work addresses, identification numbers, account numbers, access codes or passwords, labeled photographs, or other information that would make the individual's identity easily traceable, and will not repost a message that was sent to the user privately without permission of the person who sent the message.

***[Note: Education districts should consider the impact of this paragraph on present practices and procedures, including, but not limited to, practices pertaining to employee communications, school or classroom websites, and student/employee use of social networking websites. Depending upon education district policies and practices, education districts may wish to add one or more of the following clarifying paragraphs.]***

- a. This paragraph does not prohibit the posting of employee contact information on education district webpages or communications between employees and other individuals when such communications are made for education-related purposes (i.e., communications with parents or other staff members related to students).



- b. Employees creating or posting education district-related webpages may include personal contact information about themselves on a webpage. However, employees may not post personal contact information or other personally identifiable information about students unless:
  - (1) such information is classified by the education district as directory information and verification is made that the education district has not received notice from a parent/guardian or eligible student that such information is not to be designated as directory information in accordance with Policy 515; or
  - (2) such information is not classified by the education district as directory information but written consent for release of the information to be posted has been obtained from a parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with Policy 515.

In addition, prior to posting any personal contact or personally identifiable information on a education district-related webpage, employees shall obtain written approval of the content of the postings from the building administrator.

- c. These prohibitions specifically prohibit a user from utilizing the education district system to post personal information about a user or another individual on social networks, including, but not limited to, social networks such as "Facebook," "Twitter," "Instagram," "Snapchat," "TikTok," "Reddit," and similar websites or applications.
7. Users must keep all account information and passwords on file with the designated education district official. Users will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the education district system or any other system through the education district system, attempt to log in through another person's account, or use computer accounts, access codes, or network identification other than those assigned to the user. Messages and records on the education district system may not be encrypted without the permission of appropriate education district authorities.
  8. Users will not use the education district system to violate copyright laws or usage licensing agreements, or otherwise to use another person's property without the person's prior approval or proper citation, including the downloading or exchanging of pirated software or copying software to or from any education district computer, and will not plagiarize works they find on the Internet.
  9. Users will not use the education district system for conducting business, for unauthorized commercial purposes, or for financial gain unrelated to the mission of the education district. Users will not use the education district system to offer or provide goods or services or for product advertisement. Users will not use the education district system to purchase goods or services for personal use without authorization from the appropriate education district official.
  10. Users will not use the education district system to engage in bullying or cyberbullying in violation of the education district's Bullying Prohibition Policy. This prohibition includes using any technology or other electronic communication off education district premises to the extent that student learning or the school environment is substantially and materially disrupted.

- B. The education district has a special interest in regulating off-campus speech that materially disrupts classwork or involves substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others. A student or employee engaging in the foregoing unacceptable uses of the Internet when off education district premises also may be in violation of this policy as well as other education district policies. Examples of such violations may include, but are not limited to, serious or severe bullying or harassment targeting particular individuals, threats aimed at teachers or other students, failure to follow rules concerning lessons, the writing of papers, the use of computers, or participation in other online education district activities, and breaches of education district security devices. If the education district receives a report of an unacceptable use originating from a non-school computer or resource, the education district may investigate such reports to the best of its ability. Students or employees may be subject to disciplinary action for such conduct, including, but not limited to, suspension or cancellation of the use or access to the education district computer system and the Internet and discipline under other appropriate education district policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or termination of employment.
- C. If a user inadvertently accesses unacceptable materials or an unacceptable Internet site, the user shall immediately disclose the inadvertent access to an appropriate education district official. In the case of an education district employee, the immediate disclosure shall be to the employee's immediate supervisor and/or the building administrator. This disclosure may serve as a defense against an allegation that the user has intentionally violated this policy. In certain rare instances, a user also may access otherwise unacceptable materials if necessary to complete an assignment and if done with the prior approval of and with appropriate guidance from the appropriate teacher or, in the case of an education district employee, the building administrator.

## VI. FILTER

***[Note: Pursuant to state law, education districts are required to restrict access to inappropriate materials on school computers with Internet access. Education districts seeking technology revenue pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 125B.26 or certain federal funding, such as e-rate discounts, for purposes of Internet access and connection services and/or receive funds to purchase Internet accessible computers are subject to the federal Children's Internet Protection Act, effective in 2001. Those districts are required to comply with additional standards in restricting possible access to inappropriate materials. Therefore, education districts should select one of the following alternative sections depending upon whether the education district is seeking such funding and the type of funding sought.]***

### **ALTERNATIVE NO. 3**

***[Note: Education districts that receive certain federal funding, such as e-rate discounts, for purposes of Internet access and connection services and/or receive funds to purchase Internet accessible computers are subject to the federal Children's Internet Protection Act, effective in 2001. This law requires education districts to adopt an Internet safety policy that contains the provisions set forth below. Also, the Act requires such education districts to provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposed Internet safety policy prior to its implementation. Education districts that do not seek such federal financial assistance need not adopt the alternative language set forth below nor meet the requirements with respect to a public meeting to review the policy. The following alternative language for education districts that seek such federal financial assistance satisfies both state and federal law requirements.]***

- A. With respect to any of its computers with Internet access, the education district will monitor the online activities of both minors and adults and employ technology protection measures during any use of such computers by minors and adults. The

technology protection measures utilized will block or filter Internet access to any visual depictions that are:

1. Obscene;
  2. Child pornography; or
  3. Harmful to minors.
- B. The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or
  2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
  3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
- C. Software filtering technology shall be narrowly tailored and shall not discriminate based on viewpoint.
- D. An administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the Executive director may disable the technology protection measure, during use by an adult, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
- E. The education district will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

***[Note: Although education districts are not required to adopt the more restrictive provisions contained in either Alternative No. 2 or No. 3 if they do not seek state or federal funding, they may choose to adopt the more restrictive provisions as a matter of education district policy.]***

## **VII. CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER EDUCATION DISTRICT POLICIES**

Use of the education district computer system and use of the Internet shall be consistent with education district policies and the mission of the education district.

## **VIII. LIMITED EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY**

- A. By authorizing use of the education district system, the education district does not relinquish control over materials on the system or contained in files on the system. Users should expect only limited privacy in the contents of personal files on the education district system.
- B. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the education district system may lead to a discovery that a user has violated this policy, another education district policy, or the law.
- C. An individual investigation or search will be conducted if education district authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or education district policy.
- D. Parents may have the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their

child's files and e-mail files in accordance with the education district's Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Policy. Parents have the right to request the termination of their child's individual account at any time.

- E. Education district employees should be aware that the education district retains the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their files and e-mail files. In addition, education district employees should be aware that data and other materials in files maintained on the education district system may be subject to review, disclosure, or discovery under Minnesota Statutes chapter 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act).
- F. The education district will cooperate fully with local, state and federal authorities in any investigation concerning or related to any illegal activities or activities not in compliance with education district policies conducted through the education district system.

#### **IX. INTERNET USE AGREEMENT**

- A. The proper use of the Internet, and the educational value to be gained from proper Internet use, is the joint responsibility of students, parents, and employees of the education district.
- B. This policy requires the permission of and supervision by the education district's designated professional staff before a student may use an education district account or resource to access the Internet.
- C. The Internet Use Agreement form for students must be read and signed by the user, the parent or guardian, and the supervising teacher. The Internet Use Agreement form for employees must be signed by the employee. The form must then be filed at the education district office. As supervising teachers change, the agreement signed by the new teacher shall be attached to the original agreement.

#### **X. LIMITATION ON EDUCATION DISTRICT LIABILITY**

Use of the education district system is at the user's own risk. The system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The education district will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including, but not limited to, loss, damage, or unavailability of data stored on education district diskettes, tapes, hard drives, or servers, or for delays or changes in or interruptions of service or misdeliveries or nondeliveries of information or materials, regardless of the cause. The education district is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of any advice or information obtained through or stored on the education district system. The education district will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through unauthorized use of the education district system or the Internet.

#### **XI. USER NOTIFICATION**

- A. All users shall be notified of the education district policies relating to Internet use.
- B. This notification shall include the following:
  - 1. Notification that Internet use is subject to compliance with education district policies.
  - 2. Disclaimers limiting the education district's liability relative to:
    - a. Information stored on education district diskettes, hard drives, or servers.

- b. Information retrieved through education district computers, networks, or online resources.
  - c. Personal property used to access education district computers, networks, or online resources.
  - d. Unauthorized financial obligations resulting from use of education district resources/accounts to access the Internet.
3. A description of the privacy rights and limitations of education district sponsored/managed Internet accounts.
  4. Notification that, even though the education district may use technical means to limit student Internet access, these limits do not provide a foolproof means for enforcing the provisions of this acceptable use policy.
  5. Notification that goods and services can be purchased over the Internet that could potentially result in unwanted financial obligations and that any financial obligation incurred by a student through the Internet is the sole responsibility of the student and/or the student's parents.
  6. Notification that the collection, creation, reception, maintenance, and dissemination of data via the Internet, including electronic communications, is governed by Public and Private Personnel Data Policy, and Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Policy.
  7. Notification that, should the user violate the education district's acceptable use policy, the user's access privileges may be revoked, education district disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.
  8. Notification that all provisions of the acceptable use policy are subordinate to local, state, and federal laws.

**XII. PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY; NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT INTERNET USE**

- A. Outside of school, parents bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies, and other possibly offensive media. Parents are responsible for monitoring their student's use of the education district system and of the Internet if the student is accessing the education district system from home or a remote location.
- B. Parents will be notified that their students will be using education district resources/accounts to access the Internet and that the education district will provide parents the option to request alternative activities not requiring Internet access. This notification should include:
  1. A copy of the user notification form provided to the student user.
  2. A description of parent/guardian responsibilities.
  3. A notification that the parents have the option to request alternative educational activities not requiring Internet access and the material to exercise this option.
  4. A statement that the Internet Use Agreement must be signed by the user, the parent or guardian, and the supervising teacher prior to use by the student.
  5. A statement that the education district's acceptable use policy is available for parental review.

### **XIII. NOTIFICATION REGARDING TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS**

- A. "Technology provider" means a person who:
  - 1. contracts with the education district, as part of a one-to-one program or otherwise, to provide a education district-issued device for student use; and
  - 2. creates, receives, or maintains educational data pursuant or incidental to a contract with the education district.
- B. "Parent" means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian.
- C. Within 30 days of the start of each school year, the education district must give parents and students direct and timely notice, by United States mail, e-mail, or other direct form of communication, of any curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract affecting a student's educational data. The notice must:
  - 1. identify each curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider with access to educational data;
  - 2. identify the educational data affected by the curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract; and
  - 3. include information about the contract inspection and provide contact information for a school department to which a parent or student may direct questions or concerns regarding any program or activity that allows a curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider to access a student's educational data.
- D. The education district must provide parents and students an opportunity to inspect a complete copy of any contract with a technology provider.
- E. A contract between a technology provider and the education district must include requirements to ensure appropriate security safeguards for educational data. The contract must require that:
  - 1. the technology provider's employees or contractors have access to educational data only if authorized; and
  - 2. the technology provider's employees or contractors may be authorized to access educational data only if access is necessary to fulfill the official duties of the employee or contractor.
- F. All educational data created, received, maintained, or disseminated by a technology provider pursuant or incidental to a contract with a public educational agency or institution are not the technology provider's property.

### **XIV. EDUCATION DISTRICT-ISSUED DEVICES**

- A. "Education district-issued device" means hardware or software that the education district, acting independently or with a technology provider, provides to an individual student for that student's dedicated personal use. An education district-issued device includes a device issued through a one-to-one program.
- B. Except as provided in paragraph C, the education district or a technology provider must not electronically access or monitor:

1. any location-tracking feature of a education district-issued device;
  2. any audio or visual receiving, transmitting, or recording feature of a education district -issued device; or
  3. student interactions with a education district -issued device, including but not limited to keystrokes and web-browsing activity.
- C. The education district or a technology provider may only engage in activities prohibited by paragraph B if:
1. the activity is limited to a noncommercial educational purpose for instruction, technical support, or exam-proctoring by education district employees, student teachers, staff contracted by the education district, a vendor, or the Minnesota Department of Education, and notice is provided in advance;
  2. the activity is permitted under a judicial warrant;
  3. the education district is notified or becomes aware that the device is missing or stolen;
  4. the activity is necessary to respond to an imminent threat to life or safety and the access is limited to that purpose;
  5. the activity is necessary to comply with federal or state law, including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes section 121A.031; or
  6. the activity is necessary to participate in federal or state funding programs, including but not limited to the E-Rate program.
- D. If the education district or a technology provider interacts with a education district -issued device as provided in paragraph C, clause 4, it must, within 72 hours of the access, notify the student to whom the education district -issued device was issued or that student's parent and provide a written description of the interaction, including which features of the device were accessed and a description of the threat. This notice is not required at any time when the notice itself would pose an imminent threat to life or safety, but must instead be given within 72 hours after that imminent threat has ceased.

## **XV. CELL PHONE USE**

The education district board directs the executive director and the education district administration to establish rules and procedures regarding student possession and use of cell phones in schools. These rules and procedures should seek to minimize the impact of cell phones on student behavior, mental health, and academic attainment. These rules and procedures may be designed for specific school buildings, grade levels, or similar criteria.

**[NOTE: In 2024, the Minnesota legislature enacted a law requiring that school districts adopt a policy on students' possession and use of cell phones in school by March 15, 2025. This law does not state that school districts must incorporate specific language or provisions in the school district policy.]**

**MSBA recognized the common practice of setting forth cell phone rules in a student handbook or similar document. This Article directs school administration to establish cell phone rules, which the school board may require be presented to the board for approval. This approach enables administrators to craft flexible and specific rules that are specific to grade levels and buildings. The school board may choose to set forth general principles regarding cell phone use in the Article.**

**Under the new law, the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association and the**

**Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals will collaborate to make best practices available to schools on a range of different strategies to achieve the goals stated above.]**

- ~~1. Students are prohibited from using cell phones and other electronic communication devices during the instructional day. Students also are prohibited from using a cell phone or other electronic communication device to engage in conduct prohibited by education district policies including, but not limited to, cheating, bullying, harassment, and malicious and sadistic conduct. ¶¶~~
- ~~2. If the education district has a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated an education district policy, rule, or law by use of a cell phone or other electronic communication device, the education district may search the device. The search of the device will be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances justifying the search. ¶¶~~
- ~~3. Students who use an electronic communication device during the school day and/or in violation of education district policies may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the education district's discipline policy. In addition, a student's cell phone or electronic communication device may be confiscated by the education district and, if applicable, provided to law enforcement. Cell phones or other electronic communication devices that are confiscated and retained by the education district will be returned in accordance with education district building procedures.~~

***[Note: This language aligns with the provisions found in the MSBA Model Student Handbook. As an alternative to stating specific cell phone rules in an education district policy, an education district board could choose to direct education district administration to establish cell phone rules. This approach enables administrators to craft flexible and specific rules that are specific to grade levels and buildings.]***

#### **XVI. LIMIT ON SCREEN TIME FOR CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN**

A child in a publicly funded preschool or kindergarten program may not use an individual-use screen, such as a tablet, smartphone, or other digital media, without engagement from a teacher or other students. This section does not apply to a child for whom the school has an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program, or a 504 plan in effect.

#### **XVII. IMPLEMENTATION; POLICY REVIEW**

- A. The education district administration may develop appropriate user notification forms, guidelines, and procedures necessary to implement this policy for submission to the education district board for approval. Upon approval by the education district board, such guidelines, forms, and procedures shall be an addendum to this policy.
- B. The administration shall revise the user notifications, including student and parent notifications, if necessary, to reflect the adoption of these guidelines and procedures.
- C. The education district Internet policies and procedures are available for review by all parents, guardians, staff, and members of the community.
- D. Because of the rapid changes in the development of the Internet, the education district board shall conduct an annual review of this policy.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A73 (School Cell Phone Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.166 (Limit on Screen Time for Children in Preschool and Kindergarten)



Minn. Stat. § 125B.15 (Internet Access for Students)  
 Minn. Stat. § 125B.26 (Telecommunications/Internet Access Equity Act)  
 15 U.S.C. § 6501 *et seq.* (Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act)  
 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Copyrights)  
 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)  
 47 U.S.C. § 254 (Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000 (CIPA))  
 47 C.F.R. § 54.520 (FCC rules implementing CIPA)  
*Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B.L.*, 594 U.S. \_\_\_, 141 S. Ct. 2038 (2021)  
*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)  
*United States v. Amer. Library Assoc.*, 539 U.S. 1942003)  
*Sagehorn v. Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 728*, 122 F.Supp.2d 842 (D. Minn. 2015)  
*R.S. v. Minnewaska Area Sch. Dist. No. 2149*, 894 F.Supp.2d 1128 (D. Minn. 2012)  
*Tatro v. Univ. of Minnesota*, 800 N.W.2d 811 (Minn. App. 2011), *aff’d* on other grounds 816 N.W.2d 509 (Minn. 2012)  
*S.J.W. v. Lee’s Summit R-7 Sch. Dist.*, 696 F.3d 771 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2012)  
*Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. v. Camdenton R-III Sch. Dist.*, 853 F.Supp.2d 888 (W.D. Mo. 2012)  
*M.T. v. Cent. York Sch. Dist.*, 937 A.2d 538 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2007)

**Cross References:**

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Grievance Procedures and Process)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 606 (Textbooks and Instructional Materials)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 904 (Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons)

**532 USE OF PEACE OFFICERS AND CRISIS TEAMS TO REMOVE STUDENTS WITH IEPs FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS**

***[Note: Education districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]***

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to describe the appropriate use of peace officers and crisis teams to remove, if necessary, a student with an individualized education program (IEP) from school grounds.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The education district is committed to promoting learning environments that are safe for all members of the school community. It further believes that students are the first priority and that they should be reasonably protected from physical or emotional harm at all school locations and during all school activities.

In general, all students, including those with IEPs, are subject to the terms of the education district's discipline policy. Building level administrators have the leadership responsibility to maintain a safe, secure, and orderly educational environment within which learning can occur. Corrective action to discipline a student and/or modify a student's behavior will be taken by staff when a student's behavior violates the education district's discipline policy.

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which, in the judgment of education district personnel, endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or education district property, that student may be removed from education district grounds in accordance with this policy.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this policy, the following terms have the meaning given them in this section:

- A. "Crisis team" means a group of persons, which may include teachers and non-teaching education district personnel, selected by the building administrator in each school building who have received crisis intervention training and are responsible for becoming actively involved with resolving crises. The building administrator or designee shall serve as the leader of the crisis team.
- B. "Emergency" means a situation where immediate intervention is needed to protect a child or other individual from physical injury.
- C. "Peace officer" means an employee or an elected or appointed official of a political subdivision or law enforcement agency who is licensed by the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, charged with the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of general criminal laws of the state and who has the full power of arrest. The term "peace officer" includes a person who serves as a sheriff, a deputy sheriff, a police officer, or a state patrol trooper.
- D. "Physical holding" means physical intervention intended to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement, where body contact is the only source of physical restraint, and where immobilization is used to effectively gain control of a child in order to protect a child or other individual from physical injury.

**[NOTE: This definition is added to provide clarity for discussion of physical holds later in this policy and in light of recent Minnesota legislative action.]**

~~“Police liaison officer” is a peace officer who, pursuant to an agreement between the education district and a political subdivision or law enforcement agency, is assigned to a school building for all or a portion of the school day to provide law enforcement assistance and support to the building administration and to promote school safety, security, and positive relationships with students.~~

- E. The phrase “remove the student from education district grounds” is the act of securing the person of a student with an IEP and escorting that student from the education district building or education district activity at which the student with an IEP is located.
- F. “School Resource Officer” means a peace officer who is assigned to work in an elementary school, middle school, or secondary school during the regular instructional school day as one of the officer’s regular responsibilities through the terms of a contract entered between the peace officer’s employer and the designated education district or charter school.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this definition of “school resource officer.” MSBA deleted the definition of “police liaison officer” as part of this change. School districts should use the term that reflects their local circumstances.]**

- ~~FG.~~ “Student with an IEP” or “the student” means a student who is eligible to receive special education and related services pursuant to the terms of an IEP or an individual interagency intervention plan (IIIP).
- GH. All other terms and phrases used in this policy shall be defined in accordance with applicable state and federal law or ordinary and customary usage.

#### **IV. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS WITH IEPs FROM EDUCATION DISTRICT GROUNDS**

##### A. Removal By Crisis Team

If the behavior of a student with an IEP escalates to the point where the student’s behavior endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or education district property, the education district building’s crisis team may be summoned. The crisis team may attempt to de-escalate the student’s behavior by means including, but not limited to, those described in the student’s IEP and/or behavior intervention plan. When such measures fail, or when the crisis team determines that the student’s behavior continues to endanger or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or education district property, the crisis team may remove the student from education district grounds.

If the student’s behavior cannot be safely managed, education district personnel may immediately request assistance from the ~~police liaison~~ school resource officer or a peace officer.

##### B. Removal By ~~Police Liaison~~ School Resource Officer or Peace Officer

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or education district property, the education district building’s crisis team, building administrator, or the building administrator’s designee, may request that the ~~police liaison~~ school resource officer or a peace officer remove the student from education district grounds.

If a student with an IEP is restrained or removed from a classroom, education district building, or education district grounds by a peace officer at the request of a education district administrator or education district staff person during the school day twice in a 30-day period, the student's IEP team must meet to determine if the student's IEP is adequate or if additional evaluation is needed.

Whether or not a student with an IEP engages in conduct which endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or education district property, education district personnel may report a crime committed by a student with an IEP to appropriate authorities. If the education district reports a crime committed by a student with an IEP, education district personnel shall transmit copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the student for consideration by appropriate authorities to whom it reports the crime, to the extent that the transmission is permitted by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and education district's policy, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records.

***[Note: If the education district uses a different reference name for its student records policy, insert that name in place of the reference to Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, which is the title of MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515.]***

The fact that a student with an IEP is covered by special education law does not prevent state law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal and state law to crimes committed by a student with an IEP.

C. Reasonable Force Permitted

1. In removing a student with an IEP from education district grounds, a building administrator, other crisis team members, or the ~~police liaison~~ school resource officer or other agents of the education district, whether or not members of a crisis team, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another
2. In removing a student with an IEP from education district grounds, ~~police liaison~~ school resource officers and education district personnel are further prohibited from engaging in the following conduct:
  - a. Corporal punishment prohibited by Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.58;
  - b.. Requiring a child to assume and maintain a specified physical position, activity, or posture that induces physical pain;
  - c. Totally or partially restricting a child's senses as punishment;
  - d. Denying or restricting a child's access to equipment and devices such as walkers, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and communication boards that facilitate the child's functioning except when temporarily removing the equipment or device is needed to prevent injury to the child or others or serious damage to the equipment or device, in which case the equipment or device shall be returned to the child as soon as possible;
  - e. Interacting with a child in a manner that constitutes sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 260E;

- f. Physical holding (as defined **above and** in Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0941) that restricts or impairs a child's ability to breathe, restricts or impairs a child's ability to communicate distress, places pressure or weight on a child's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen, or results in straddling a child's torso;
  - g. Withholding regularly scheduled meals or water; and/or
  - h. Denying a child access to toilet facilities.
3. Any reasonable force used under Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.582; 609.06, subdivision 1; and 609.379 which intends to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement where body contact is the only source of physical restraint or confines a child alone in a room from which egress is barred shall be reported to the Minnesota Department of Education as a restrictive procedure, including physical holding or seclusion used by an unauthorized or untrained staff person.

D. Parental Notification

The building administrator or designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent or guardian of the student's removal from education district grounds as soon as possible following the removal.

E. Continued Removals; Review of IEP

Continued and repeated use of the removal process described herein must be reviewed in the development of the individual student's IEP or IIIP.

F. Effect of Policy in an Emergency; Use of Restrictive Procedures

A student with an IEP may be removed in accordance with this policy regardless of whether the student's conduct would create an emergency.

If the education district seeks to remove a student with an IEP from education district grounds under this policy due to behaviors that constitute an emergency and the student's IEP, IIIP, or behavior intervention plan authorizes the use of one or more restrictive procedures, the crisis team may employ those restrictive procedures, in addition to any reasonable force that may be necessary, to facilitate the student's removal from education district grounds, as long as the crisis team members who are implementing the restrictive procedures have received the training required by Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0942, subdivision 5, and otherwise comply with the requirements of section 125A.0942.

G. Reporting to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Annually, stakeholders may recommend, as necessary, to the Commissioner of MDE (Commissioner) specific and measurable implementation and outcome goals for reducing the use of restrictive procedures. The Commissioner must submit to the Legislature a report on districts' progress in reducing the use of restrictive procedures that recommends how to further reduce these procedures and eliminate the use of seclusion. By January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 of each year, districts must report, in a form and manner determined by the Commissioner, about individual students who have been secluded. By July 15 each year, districts must report summary data. The summary data must include information on the use of restrictive

procedures for the prior school year, July 1 through June 30, including the use of reasonable force by education district personnel that is consistent with the definition of physical holding or seclusion of a child with a disability.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.67 (Removal by Police Officer)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 125A.094-125A.0942 (Restrictive Procedures for Children with Disabilities)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.06 (Authorized Use of Force)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Permitted Actions)  
[Minn. Stat. § 626.8482 \(School Resource Officers; Duties; Training; Model Policy\)](#)  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g *et seq.* (Family Educational Rights and Privacy (FERPA))  
20 U.S.C. § 1415(k)(6) (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)  
34 C.F.R. § 300.535 (Referral to and Action by Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507 (Corporal Punishment [and Prone Restraint](#))  
[MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507.5 \(School Resource Officers\)](#)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)

## **535 SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish parameters for the use of service animals by students, employees, and visitors within school buildings and on school grounds.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to bring their service animals into school buildings or on school grounds in accordance with, and subject to, this policy.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

#### **A. Service Animal**

A “service animal” is a dog (regardless of breed or size) or miniature horse that is individually trained to perform “work or tasks” for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including an individual with a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals. Service animals are working animals that perform valuable functions; they are not pets. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. An animal accompanying an individual for the sole purpose of providing emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companionship is not a service animal.

#### **B. Handler**

A “handler” is an individual with a disability who uses a service animal. In the case of an individual who is unable to care for and supervise the service animal for reasons such as age or disability, “handler” means the person who cares for and supervises the animal on that individual’s behalf. Education district personnel are not responsible for the care, supervision, or handling responsibilities of a service animal.

#### **C. Work or Tasks**

1. “Work or tasks” are those functions performed by a service animal.

2. Examples of “work or tasks” include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.
3. The crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship are not “work or tasks” for the purposes of this policy.

D. Trainer

A “trainer” is a person who is training a service animal and is affiliated with a recognized training program for service animals.

**IV. ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES; PERMITTED INQUIRIES**

- A. In general, handlers (i.e., individuals with disabilities or trainers) are permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of education district properties where members of the public, students, and employees are allowed to go. A handler has the right to be accompanied by a service animal whenever and to the same extent that the handler has the right: (a) to be present on education district property or in education district facilities; (b) to attend or participate in a school- sponsored event, activity, or program; or (c) to be transported in a vehicle that is operated by or on behalf of the education district.
- B. It is an unfair discriminatory practice to prohibit a person with a disability from taking a service animal into the public place or conveyance to aid persons with disabilities, and if the service animal is properly harnessed or leashed so that the person with a disability may maintain control of the service animal.
- C. The education district shall not require a person with a disability to make an extra payment or pay an additional charge when taking a service animal into any education district building.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature revised Minn. Stat. 3631.19, as reflected in Paragraphs B. and C.]**

- BD.** When an individual with a disability brings a service animal to a education district property, education district employees shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person’s disability, but may make the following two inquiries to determine



whether the animal qualifies as a service animal:

1. Is the service animal required because of a disability; and
  2. What work or tasks is the service animal trained to perform.
- CE. Education district employees shall not make these inquiries of an individual with a disability bringing a service animal to education district property when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. However, education district employees may inquire whether the individual with a disability has completed and submitted the request form described in Part VI., below.
- DF. An individual with a disability may not be required to provide documentation such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal.

## V. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SERVICE ANIMALS

- A. The service animal must be required for the individual with a disability.
- B. The service animal must be individually trained to do work or tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
- C. A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable, because of a disability, to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).
- D. The service animal must be housebroken.
- E. The service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. The handler is responsible for the care and supervision of a service animal, including walking the service animal, feeding the service animal, grooming the service animal, providing veterinary care to the service animal, and responding to the service animal's need to relieve itself, including the proper disposal of the service animal's waste.
- F. The education district is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the service animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
- G. In the case of a student who is unable to care for and/or supervise his or her service animal, the student's parent/guardian is responsible for arranging for such care and supervision. In the case of an employee or other individual who is unable

to care for and/or supervise his or her service animal, the employee or other individuals authorized representative is responsible for arranging for a service animal's care and supervision.

- H. The service animal must be properly licensed and vaccinated in accordance with applicable state laws and local ordinances.

## **VI. REQUESTING THE USE OF A SERVICE ANIMAL AT SCHOOL**

- A. Students with a disability seeking to be accompanied by a service animal are requested to submit the Approval Request Form to the building principal of the school the student attends. The principal will notify the executive director or the administrator designated with responsibility to address such requests. Education district employees seeking to be accompanied by a service animal are requested to submit the Approval Request Form to the executive director or the administrator designated with responsibility to address such requests.
- B. Students or employees seeking to bring a service animal onto district premises are requested to identify whether the need for the service animal is required because of a disability and to describe the work or tasks that the service animal is trained to perform.
- C. The owner of the service animal shall provide written evidence that the service animal has received all vaccinations required by state law or local ordinance.

## **VII. REMOVAL OR EXCLUSION OF A SERVICE ANIMAL**

- A. An education district official may require a handler to remove a service animal from education district property, a school building, or a school-sponsored program or activity, if:
  - 1. Any of the requirements described in Part V., above, are not met.
  - 2. The service animal is out of control and/or the handler does not effectively control the animal's behavior;
  - 3. The presence of the service animal would fundamentally alter the nature of a service, program or activity; or
  - 4. The service animal behaves in a way that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, has a history of such behavior, or otherwise poses a significant health or safety risk to others that cannot be eliminated by reasonable accommodations.
- B. If the service animal is properly excluded, the education district shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program,

or activity without the service animal, unless such individual has violated a law or school rule or regulation that would warrant the removal of the individual.

### **VIII. ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS FOR MINIATURE HORSES**

In assessing whether a miniature horse may be permitted in a school building or on school grounds as a service animal, the following factors shall be considered:

- A. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
- B. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
- C. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
- D. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific building or on school grounds compromises legitimate health and safety requirements.

### **IX. ALLERGIES; FEAR OF ANIMALS**

If a student or employee notifies the education district that he or she is allergic to a service animal, the education district will balance the rights of the individuals involved. In general, allergies that are not life threatening are not a valid reason for prohibiting the presence of a service animal. Fear of animals is generally not a valid reason for prohibiting the presence of a service animal.

### **X. NON-SERVICE ANIMALS FOR STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS (IEPS) OR SECTION 504 PLANS**

If a special education student or a student with a Section 504 plan seeks to bring an animal onto education district property that is not a service animal, the request shall be referred to the student's IEP team or Section 504 team, as appropriate, to determine whether the animal is necessary for the student to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) or, in the case of a Section 504 student, to reasonably accommodate the student's access to the education district's programs and activities.

### **XI. NON-SERVICE ANIMAL AS AN ACCOMMODATION FOR EMPLOYEES**

If an employee seeks to bring an animal onto education district property that is not a service animal, the request shall be referred to the executive director or the administrator designated to handle such requests. An education district employee who is a qualified individual with a disability will be allowed to bring such animal onto education district property when it is determined that such use is required to enable the employee to perform the essential functions of his or her position or to enjoy the benefits of employment in a manner comparable to those similarly situated non-disabled employees.

## **XII. LIABILITY**

- A. The owner of the service animal is responsible for any harm or injury to an individual and for any property damage caused by the service animal while on education district property.
- B. An individual who, directly or indirectly through statements or conduct, intentionally misrepresents an animal in that person's possession as a service animal may be subject to criminal liability.

**Legal References:** Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
28 C.F.R. § 35.104, 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(7), and 28 C.F.R. § 35.136  
(ADA Regulations)  
20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 256C.02 (Public Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities)  
Minn. Stat. § 363A.19 (Discrimination Against ~~Blind, Deaf, or Other~~  
~~Persons with Physical or Sensory~~ Disabilities Prohibited)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.226 (Harm Caused by Dog)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.833 (Misrepresentation of Service Animal)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)

## 601 EDUCATION DISTRICT CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION GOALS

***[Note: Minnesota Statutes section 120B.11 requires education districts to adopt a comprehensive long-term strategic plan that addresses the review of curriculum, instruction, student achievement, and assessment. MSBA/MASA Model Policies 601, 603, and 616 address these statutory requirements. In addition, MSBA/MASA Model Policies 613-615 and 617-620 provide procedures to further implement the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 120B.11.]***

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish broad curriculum parameters for the education district that encompass the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law and are aligned with ~~comprehensive achievement and civic readiness~~ ~~creating the world's best workforce~~.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the education district is to ~~establish the "world's best workforce"~~ ~~strive for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness~~ in which all learning in the education district should be directed and for which all education 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. "Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness" means striving to: meet education district 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; have all students graduate from high school; and prepare students to be lifelong learners.
- ~~D~~E. "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~~F. "Curriculum" means district or school adopted programs and written plans for providing students with learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge, skills, and career and college readiness.
- ~~F~~G. "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~~H. "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.

- HI. "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.
- ~~IJ. "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.~~
- JK. "Performance measures" are measures to determine education district and school site progress in striving **for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness to create the world's best workforce** and must include at least the following:
  1. the size of the academic achievement gap; rigorous course taking, including college-level advanced placement, international baccalaureate, postsecondary enrollment options, including concurrent enrollment, other rigorous courses of study or industry certification courses or programs, and enrichment experiences by student subgroup;
  2. student performance on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments;
  3. high school graduation rates; and
  4. 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. The education district board, at a public meeting, must adopt a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with **striving for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness creating the world's best workforce** and includes the following:
  1. clearly defined education district and school site goals and benchmarks for instruction and student achievement for all student categories identified in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.345, subdivision 3, paragraph (b)(2).;  
**[Note: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601, Section IV.B. and MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 address this requirement.]**
  2. a process to assess and evaluate each student's progress toward meeting state and local academic standards, assess and identify students for participation in gifted and talented programs and services and accelerate their instruction, adopt early-admission procedures consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.15 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;  
**[Note: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 addresses this requirement.]**
  3. a system to periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all instruction and curriculum, taking into account strategies and best practices, student

outcomes, principal evaluations under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.147, subdivision 3, students' access to effective teachers who are members of populations underrepresented among the licensed teachers in the district or school and who reflect the diversity of enrolled students under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.35, subdivision 3(b)(2), and teacher evaluations under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.40, subdivision. 8, or 122A.41, subdivision 5;

**[Note: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 addresses this requirement.]**

4. strategies for improving instruction, curriculum, and student achievement, including the English and, where practicable, the native language development and the academic achievement of English learners;

**[Note: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 addresses this requirement.]**

5. a process to examine the equitable distribution of teachers and strategies to ensure children in low-income families, children in families of People of Color, and children in American Indian families are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, ineffective, or out-of-field teachers;
  6. education effectiveness practices that
    - a. integrate high-quality instruction, technology, and curriculum that is rigorous, accurate, antiracist, and culturally sustaining;
    - b. ensure learning and work environments validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate cultural and community strengths for all students, families, and employees;
    - c. provide a collaborative professional culture that seeks to retain qualified, racially and ethnically diverse staff effective at working with diverse students while developing and supporting teacher quality, performance, and effectiveness; and
  7. an annual budget for continuing to implement the education district plan; and
  8. identifying a list of suggested and required materials, resources, sample curricula, and pedagogical skills for use in kindergarten through grade 12 that accurately reflect the diversity of the state of Minnesota.
- B. The education 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 XXX (Reading and the Read Act)

**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 Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness—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:**

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)  
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 616 (School District System Accountability)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)



## **602 ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHOOL DAY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a timely determination of the school calendar and school day.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school calendar and schedule of the school day are important to parents, students, employees, and the general public for advance, effective planning of the school year.

### **III. CALENDAR RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. The school calendar shall be adopted annually by the education district board. It shall meet all provisions of Minnesota statutes pertaining to minimum number of school days and other provisions of law. The school calendar shall establish student days, workshop days for staff, provide for emergency closings and other information related to students, staff, and parents.

***[Note: The annual school calendar must include at least 425 hours of instruction for a kindergarten student ~~without a disability~~, 935 hours of instruction for a student in grades 1 through 6, and 1,020 hours of instruction for a student in grades 7 through 12, not including summer school. The school calendar for all-day kindergarten must include at least 850 hours of instruction for the school year. If a voluntary prekindergarten program is offered by the education district, a prekindergarten student must receive at least 350 hours of instruction for the school year. An education district board's annual calendar must include at least 165 days of instruction for a student in grades 1 through 11 unless a four-day week schedule has been approved by the Minnesota Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.126. An education district board's annual school calendar may include plans for up to five days of instruction provided through online instruction due to inclement weather. The inclement weather plans must be developed according to Section V, below.]***

***[Note: To the extent the education district board offers K-12 teachers the opportunity for more staff development training under Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40, subdivisions 7 and 7a, or Minnesota Statutes section 122A.41, subdivisions. 4 and 4a, the education district shall adopt as its school calendar a total of 240 days of student instruction and staff development, of which the total number of staff development days equals the difference between the total number of days of student instruction and 240 days. The education district board may schedule additional staff development days throughout the calendar year.]***

- B. Except for learning programs during summer and flexible learning year programs, the education district will not commence an elementary or secondary school year before Labor Day, except as provided in Section III.B.1., III.B.2., or III.B.3. Days devoted to teacher's workshops may be held before Labor Day.
1. The education district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day to accommodate a construction or remodeling project of \$400,000 or

more affecting a education district school facility.

2. The education district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day if the education district has agreement under Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.30, 123A.32, or 123A.35 with an education district that qualifies under Section III.B.1.
  3. The education district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day if the education district agrees to the same schedule with an education district in an adjoining state.
- C. Employee and advisory groups shall be provided an opportunity to participate in school calendar considerations through a meet and confer process.

***[Note: ~~The provisions of the prior law requiring the education district board to adopt the calendar for the next school year by April 1 have been repealed. The education district board should still attempt to establish the calendar as early as possible so proper planning can take place by all members of the school community.]~~***

***[The statutory April 1 requirement was repealed many years ago.]***

#### **IV. SCHOOL DAY RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. The executive director shall be responsible for developing a schedule for the student day, subject to review by the education district board. All requirements and provisions of Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Department of Education Rules shall be met.
- B. In developing the student day schedule, the executive director shall consider such factors as school bus schedules, cooperative programs, differences in time requirements at various grade levels, effective utilization of facilities, cost effectiveness, and other concerns deserving of attention.
- C. Proposed changes in the school day shall be subject to review and approval by the education district board.

#### **V. E-LEARNING DAYS**

- A. An "e-learning day" is a school day where a school offers full access to online instruction provided by students' individual teachers due to inclement weather.
- B. An education district may designate up to five e-learning days in one school year.
- C. An e-learning day is counted as a day of instruction and included in the hours of instruction pursuant to Section III.A., above.
- D. An education district board may adopt an e-learning day plan after consulting with the exclusive representative of the teachers. The e-learning day plan developed by the education district will include accommodations for students without Internet access at home and for digital device access for families without the technology or with an insufficient amount of technology for the number of children in the household. The plan must also provide accessible options for students with disabilities.
- E. The education district must notify parents and students of its e-learning day plan at the beginning of each school year.
- F. When an e-learning day is declared by the education district, notice must be provided to parents and students at least two hours prior to the normal school start time that students will need to follow the e-learning day plan for that day.

- G. On an e-learning day, each student’s teacher must be accessible both online and by telephone during normal school hours to assist students and parents.
- H. When the education district declares an e-learning day, it must continue to pay the full wages for scheduled work hours and benefits of all education district employees for the duration of the e-learning period. During the e-learning period, education district employees must be allowed to work from home to the extent practicable, be assigned to work in an alternative location, or be retained on an on-call basis for any potential need.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 10.55 (Juneteenth)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.40 (School Calendar)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.41 (Length of School Year; Hours of Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.414 (E-Learning Days)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.415 (Extended School Calendar)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.42 (Conduct of School on Certain Holidays)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subds. 7 and 7a (Employment; Contracts; Termination)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41, Subds. 4 and 4a (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 123A.30 (Agreements for Secondary Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 123A.32 (Interdistrict Cooperation)  
Minn. Stat. § 123A.35 (Cooperation and Combination)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.126 (Powers and Duties of Commissioner; Flexible Learning Year Programs)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.151 (Voluntary Prekindergarten Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124E.25 (Payment of Aids to Charter Schools)  
Minn. Stat. § 127A.41, Subd. 7 (Distribution of School Aids; Appropriation)  
Minn. Stat. § 645.44 (Words and Phrases Defined)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 425 (Staff Development)

## **603 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

***[Note: Minnesota Statutes section 120B.11 requires education districts to adopt a comprehensive long-term strategic plan that addresses the review of curriculum, instruction, student achievement, and assessment. MSBA/MASA Model Policies 601, 603, and 616 address these statutory requirements. In addition, MSBA/MASA Model Policies 613-615 and 618-620 provide procedures to further implement the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 120B.11.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for continuous review and improvement of the school curriculum.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Curriculum development shall be directed toward the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the education program of the education district.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY**

The executive director shall be responsible for curriculum development and for determining the most effective way of conducting research on the education district's curriculum needs and establishing a long-range curriculum development program. Timelines shall be determined by the executive director that will provide for periodic reviews of each curriculum area.

### **IV. DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- A. The education district board must establish an advisory committee to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.
- B. The District Advisory Committee, to the extent possible, must reflect the diversity of the district and its school sites, include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents, and provide translation to the extent appropriate and practicable. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents must comprise at least two-thirds of committee members.
- C. The District Advisory Committee must pursue community support to accelerate the academic and native literacy and achievement of English learners with varied needs, from young children to adults, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.59, subdivisions 2 and 2a.
- D. The education district may establish site teams as subcommittees of the District Advisory Committee.
- E. The District Advisory Committee must recommend to the education district board
  1. rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals and measures consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.11, subdivision 1a, 120B.022 subdivisions 1a and 1b, and 120B.35;
  2. district assessments;

3. means to improve students' equitable access to effective and more diverse teachers;
  4. strategies to ensure the curriculum is rigorous, accurate, antiracist, culturally sustaining, and reflects the diversity of the student population;
  5. strategies to ensure that curriculum and learning and work environments validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate the cultural and community strengths of all racial and ethnic groups; and
  6. program evaluations.
- F. School sites may expand upon district evaluations of instruction, curriculum, assessments, or programs.

## V. SCHOOL SITE TEAM

Each school must establish a site team to develop and implement strategies and education effectiveness practices to improve instruction, curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site. The site team must include an equal number of teachers and administrators and at least one parent. The site team advises the board and the advisory committee about developing the annual budget and creates an instruction and curriculum improvement plan to align curriculum, assessment of student progress, and growth in meeting state and district academic standards and instruction.

## VI. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

**[Note: In light of changes in Minnesota law regarding curriculum, MSBA encourages education districts to consider deleting Article VI, Section A or revising it to reflect local curriculum development processes. Literacy planning is now addressed in new model policy 621: Literacy and the READ Act.]**

- A. Students who do not meet or exceed Minnesota academic standards, as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school, shall be informed that admission to a public school is free and available to any resident under 21 years of age or who meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.20, subdivision 1(c). A student's plan under this section shall continue while the student is enrolled.
- B. The executive director shall be responsible for keeping the education district board informed of all state-mandated curriculum changes, as well as recommended discretionary changes, and for periodically presenting recommended modifications for education district board review and approval.
- C. The executive director shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement education district board policy relating to curriculum development.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.10 (Findings; Improving Instruction and Curriculum)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness—the World's Best Workforce)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 ( ~~Reading Proficiently No Later than the End of Grade 3~~ **Read Act Goal and Interventions**)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125(f) (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.59 (Definitions)

Minn. Rules Part 3500.0550 (Inclusive Educational Program)  
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)~~  
Minn. Rules Part 3502.0660 (Academic Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.09 6055 (Academic Standards in Science)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)  
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 604 (Instructional Curriculum)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)  
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 616 (School District System Accountability)  
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)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 623 (Mandatory Summer School Instruction)

## 604 INSTRUCTIONAL CURRICULUM

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the development of course offerings for students.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Instruction must be provided in at least the following subject areas:

1. basic communication skills including reading and writing, literature, and fine arts;
2. mathematics and science;
3. social studies, including history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship ~~that includes civics (see II.I.);~~
4. health and physical education;

***[Note: Health curriculum may include child sexual abuse prevention in consultation with other federal, state, or local agencies and community-based organizations to identify research-based tools, curricula, and programs.]***

5. ~~F~~the arts;
6. ~~C~~career and technical education; and
7. ~~W~~world languages.

***[Note: The education district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. World languages programs should be developed and implemented to acknowledge and reinforce the language proficiency and cultural awareness that non-English language speakers already possess and encourage students' proficiency in multiple world languages. Programs also must encompass indigenous American Indian languages and cultures, among other world languages and cultures. Education districts may award Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificates consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.022.]***

- B. The basic instructional program shall include all courses required for each grade level by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and courses required in all elective subject areas. The instructional approach will be nonsexist and multicultural.
- C. Public elementary and middle schools must offer at least three and require at least two, of the following four art areas: dance, music, theater, and visual arts. High schools shall offer at least three, and require at least one, of the following five arts areas: dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts.
- D. The education district must establish and regularly review its own standards for career and technical education (CTE) programs. Standards must align with CTE frameworks developed by the Department of Education, standards developed by national CTE organizations, or recognized industry standards.

- E. The education district board, at its discretion, may offer additional courses in the instructional program at any grade level.
- F. Each instructional program shall be planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the education district and other relevant factors. Each program plan should contain goals and objectives, materials, minimum student competency levels, and methods for student evaluation.
- G. The executive director shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement education district board policy relating to instructional curriculum.
- H. The education district ~~or charter school~~ may not discriminate against or discipline a teacher or principal on the basis of incorporating into curriculum contributions of persons in a federally protected class or state protected class when the included contribution is in alignment with standards and benchmarks adopted under Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.021 and 120B.023.

### III. REQUIRED ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- A. The following subject areas are required for statewide accountability:
  - 1. language arts;
  - 2. mathematics, encompassing algebra II, integrated mathematics III, or an equivalent in high school, and to be prepared for the three credits of mathematics in grades 9 through 12, the grade 8 standards include the completion of algebra;
  - 3. science, including earth and space science, life science, and the physical sciences, including chemistry and physics;
  - 4. social studies, including history, geography, economics, and government and citizenship that includes civics;
  - 5. physical education;
  - 6. health, for which locally developed academic standards apply; and
  - 7. the arts.
- B. Elementary and middle schools must offer at least three and require at least two of the following five arts areas: dance, media arts, music, theater , and visual arts. High schools must offer at least three and require at least one of the following five arts areas: media arts, dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

**[NOTE: Line 6. regarding locally developed health academic standard continues to be in effect. The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted a change in health standards from local to state determination, as noted in Model Policy 613. It will likely take eighteen months or more for a state health standard to be finalized. Until that time, school districts should maintain their locally developed health academic standards. MSBA will alert school districts to update line 6. when the state standards are finalized.]**

### PARENTAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

The education district shall have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or to an adult student and, if the parent, guardian, or



adult student objects to the content, to make reasonable arrangements with education district personnel for alternative instruction. Alternative instruction may be provided by the parent, guardian, or adult student if the alternative instruction, if any, offered by the education district board does not meet the concerns of the parent, guardian, or adult student. The education district board is not required to pay for the costs of alternative instruction provided by a parent, guardian, or adult student. Education district personnel may not impose an academic or other penalty upon a student merely for arranging alternative instruction under this section. Education district personnel may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work.

#### **IV. CPR AND AED INSTRUCTION**

The education district will provide one time cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) instruction as part of its grade 7 to 12 curriculum.

- A. At the education district's discretion, training and instruction may result in CPR certification.
- B. CPR and AED instruction must include CPR and AED training that have been developed:
  - 1. by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross and incorporate psychomotor skills to support the instruction; or
  - 2. using nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines for CPR and incorporate psychomotor skills to support the instruction. "Psychomotor skills" means hands-on practice to support cognitive learning; it does not mean cognitive-only instruction and training.
- C. The education district may use community members such as emergency medical technicians, paramedics, police officers, firefighters, and representatives of the Minnesota Resuscitation Consortium, the American Heart Association, or the American Red Cross, among others, to provide instruction and training.
- D. A education district administrator may waive this curriculum requirement for a high school transfer student regardless of whether or not the student previously received instruction under this section, an enrolled student absent on the day the instruction occurred under this section, or an eligible student who has a disability.

***[Note: If an education district requests resources, the Minnesota Resuscitation Consortium must provide them to the education district for instruction and training provided to students under this section.]***

#### **V. COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING**

- A. The education district shall assist all students by no later than grade 9 to explore their educational college and career interests, aptitudes, and aspirations and develop a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment. All students' plans must:
  - 1. provide a comprehensive plan to prepare for and complete career and college-ready curriculum by meeting state and local academic standards and developing career and employment-related skills such as teamwork, collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking, and good work habits;
  - 2. emphasize academic rigor and high expectations and inform the student, and the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor, of the student's achievement level score on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school;

3. help students identify interests, aptitudes, aspirations, and personal learning styles that may affect their career and college-ready goals and postsecondary education and employment choices;
  4. set appropriate career and college-ready goals with timelines that identify effective means for achieving those goals;
  5. help students access education and career options;
  6. integrate strong academic content into career-focused courses and applied and experiential learning opportunities and integrate relevant career-focused courses and applied and experiential learning opportunities into strong academic content;
  7. help identify and access appropriate counseling and other supports and assistance that enable students to complete required coursework, prepare for postsecondary education and careers, and obtain information about postsecondary education costs and eligibility for financial aid and scholarship;
  8. help identify collaborative partnerships among pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools, postsecondary institutions, economic development agencies, and local and regional employers that support students' transitions to postsecondary education and employment and provide students with applied and experiential learning opportunities; and
  9. be reviewed and revised at least annually by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the education district to ensure that the student's course-taking schedule keeps the student **on track for graduation**, making adequate progress to meet state and local academic standards and high school graduation requirements and with a reasonable chance to succeed with employment or postsecondary education without the need to first complete remedial coursework.
- B. The education district may develop grade-level curricula or provide instruction that introduces students to various careers, but must not require any curriculum, instruction, or employment-related activity that obligates an elementary or secondary student to involuntarily select or pursue a career, career interest, employment goals, or related job training.
- C. Educators must possess the knowledge and skills to effectively teach all English learners in their classrooms. Education districts must provide appropriate curriculum, targeted materials, professional development opportunities for educators, and sufficient resources to enable English learners to become career and college ready.
- D. When assisting students in developing a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education and employment, education districts must recognize the unique possibilities of each student and ensure that the contents of each student's plan reflect the student's unique talents, skills, and abilities as the student grows, develops, and learns.
- E. If a student with a disability has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or standardized written plan that meets the plan components herein, the IEP satisfies the requirement, and no additional transition plan is needed.
- F. Students who do not meet or exceed the Minnesota Academic Standards, as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school, shall be informed that admission to a public school is free and available to any resident under 21 years of age or who meets the requirements of the compulsory

attendance law. A student's plan under this provision shall continue while a student is enrolled.

## **VI. CIVICS TEST**

- A. A student enrolled in a public school must correctly answer at least 30 of 50 civics test questions. A school or district may record on a student's transcript that the student answered at least 30 of 50 civics test questions correctly.
- B. "Civics test questions" means 50 of the 100 questions that, as of January 1, 2015, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services officers use to select the questions they pose to applicants for naturalization so the applicants can demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and government, as required by federal law. The Learning Law and Democracy Foundation, in consultation with Minnesota civics teachers, must select by July 1 each year 50 of the 100 questions under this paragraph to serve as the state's civics test questions for the proximate school year and immediately transmit the 50 selected civics test questions to MDE and to the Legislative Coordinating Commission, which must post the 50 questions it receives on the Minnesota's Legacy website by August 1 of that year.
- C. The education district may exempt a student with disabilities from this requirement if the student's IEP team determines the requirement is inappropriate and establishes an alternative requirement.
- D. The education district may administer the civics test questions in a language other than English to students who qualify for English learner services.
- E. The education district may administer civics test questions as part of the social studies curriculum.
- F. The education district must not prevent a student from graduating or deny a student a high school diploma for failing to correctly answer at least 30 of 50 civics test questions.
- G. The education district cannot charge a fee related to this requirement.

***[Note: This requirement is effective for students enrolling in grade 9 in the 2017-2018 school year and later.]***

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.022 (Elective Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.101 (Curriculum)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.20 (Parental Curriculum Review)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.022 (Elective Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks Implement, Supplement Statewide Academic Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.236 (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic External Defibrillator Instruction)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)

**607 ORGANIZATION OF GRADE LEVELS**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to address the grade level organization of schools within the education district.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

A. The policy of the education district is to address the groupings of grade levels as recognized in Minnesota Statutes section 120A.05, as follows:

*[Note: Each education district should identify within the groupings as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 120A.05, how grade levels shall be organized within the education district from the options listed below:*

<i>Elementary:</i>	<i>Grades prekindergarten through 6</i>
<i>Middle:</i>	<i>Minimum of two consecutive grades above 4th but below 10th</i>
<i>Secondary:</i>	<i>(Grades 7 through 12)</i>
<i>Junior High</i>	<i>Grades ___ through ___</i>
<i>Senior High</i>	<i>Grades ___ through ___</i>
<i>Vocational</i>	<i>Grades 7 through 12]</i>

B. The executive director may seek education district board approval to administer certain programs on a non-graded basis or a design different from that indicated. Program proposals that seek education district board approval must meet all state requirements and reflect the rationale for the modification.

C. The education district may request documentation that verifies a student falls within the schools minimum and maximum age requirements for admission to publicly funded prekindergarten, preschool, kindergarten, or grades 1 through 12. Documentation may include a passport, a hospital birth record or physician’s certificate, a baptismal or religious certificate, an adoption record, health records, immunization records, immigration records, previously verified school records, early childhood screening records, Minnesota Immunization Information Connection records, or an affidavit from a parent.

### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Kindergarten” means a program designed for students five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year commences that prepares students to enter first grade the following school year.
- B. “Prekindergarten” means a program designed for students younger than five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year commences that prepares students to enter kindergarten the following school year.

**[NOTE: School districts with a voluntary prekindergarten program may choose to add a provision in line with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.1, which was undated in 2024. The statute states that a school district may establish a voluntary prekindergarten program for *eligible four-year-old children* (the italicized language is new.)]**

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, Subds. 9, 10a, 11, 13, 17 (Definitions--Public Schools)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 4 (Verification of Age for Admission to Public School)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 2 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)

***Cross References:*** None

## 608 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES – SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the position of the education district board on the need to provide special educational services to some students in the education district.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The education district board recognizes that some students need special education and further recognizes the importance of providing a free appropriate public education and delivery system for students in need of special education.

### III. CHILDREN FROM BIRTH THROUGH AGE SEVEN EXPERIENCING DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

- A. "Child with a disability" means a child identified under federal and state special education law as deaf or hard-of-hearing, blind or visually impaired, deafblind, or having a speech or language impairment, a physical impairment, other health disability, developmental cognitive disability, an emotional or behavioral disorder, specific learning disability, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, or severe multiple impairments, and who needs special education and related services, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families for children from birth through age two and by the rules of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education for all other children. A licensed physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, a physician assistant, or a licensed psychologist is qualified to make a diagnosis and determination of attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder for purposes of identifying a child with a disability.
- B. In addition to Paragraph A, every child under age three, and at local district discretion from age three to age seven, who needs special instruction and services, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families for children from birth through age two and by the rules of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education for children ages three through seven, because the child has a substantial delay or has an identifiable physical or mental condition known to hinder normal development is a child with a disability.

- C. A child with a short-term or temporary physical or emotional illness or disability, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families for children from birth through age two and by the rules of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education for all other children, is not a child with a disability.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature revised these provisions in part to account for the responsibilities of the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The provisions quote Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.02.]**

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The education district board accepts its responsibility to identify, evaluate, and provide special education and related services for ~~disabled~~ children with a **disability** who are properly the responsibility of the education district and who meet the criteria to qualify for special education and related services as set forth in Minnesota and federal law.
- B. The education district shall ensure that all qualified children with a disability are provided special education and related services that are appropriate to their educational needs.
- C. When such services require or result from interagency cooperation, the education district shall participate in such interagency activities in compliance with applicable federal and state law.
- D. The education district may conduct an assessment for developmental adapted physical education, as defined in Minnesota Rules, part 3525.1352, as a stand-alone evaluation without conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the student in accordance with prior written notice provisions in Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.091, subdivision 3a. A parent or guardian may request that the education district conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the parent's or guardian's student.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted paragraph D. This provision is permissive, not mandatory. A school board can decide whether to add it to a policy.]**

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.02 (Definition of Child with a Disability)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 125A.027, 125A.03, 125A.08, 125A.15, and 125A.29 (District Obligations)  
20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004)

***Cross References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 508 (Extended School Year for Certain Students with Individualized Education Programs)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)



## **609 RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to identify the status of religion as it pertains to the programs of the education district.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The education district shall neither promote nor disparage any religious belief or nonbelief. Instead, the education district encourages all students and employees to have appreciation for and tolerance of each other's views.
- B. The education district also recognizes that religion has had and is having a significant role in the social, cultural, political, and historical development of civilization.
- C. The education district recognizes that one of its educational objectives is to increase its students' knowledge and appreciation of music, art, drama, and literature which may have had a religious basis or origin as well as a secular importance.
- D. The education district supports the inclusion of religious music, art, drama, and literature in the curriculum and in school activities provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience and is presented in an objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
- E. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of various religions, holidays, customs, and beliefs may be explained in an unbiased and nonsectarian manner.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. The executive director shall be responsible for ensuring that the study of religious materials, customs, beliefs, and holidays in the education district is in keeping with the following guidelines:
  - 1. The proposed activity must have a secular purpose.
  - 2. The primary objective of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion.

3. The activity must not foster excessive governmental relationships with religion.
  4. Notwithstanding the foregoing guidelines, reasonable efforts must be made to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance or American Indian cultural practice, observance, or ceremony. The education district must provide annual notice to parents of this policy.
- B. The executive director is granted authority to develop and present for education district board review and approval directives and guidelines for the purpose of providing further guidance relative to the teaching of materials related to religion. Approved directives and guidelines shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

**Legal References:** U. S. Const., amend. I  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 12(3) (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.35 (Absence from School for Religious and Cultural Observance)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.10 (Moment of Silence)  
*Good News Club v. Milford Central School*, 533 U.S. 98, 121 S.Ct. 2093, 150 L.Ed.2d 151 (2001)  
*Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 120 S.Ct. 2266 (2000)  
*Tangipahoa Parish Bd. of Educ. v. Freiler*, 530 U.S. 1251, 120 S.Ct. 2706 (2000)  
*Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S.602, 91 S.Ct. 2105, 29 L.Ed.2d 745 (1971)  
*Child Evangelism Fellowship v. Minneapolis Special Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 690 F.3d 996 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2012)  
*Wigg v. Sioux Falls Sch. Dist.*, 382 F.3d 807 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004)  
*Doe v. School Dist. of City of Norfolk*, 340 F.3d 605 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003)  
*Stark v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 640*, 123 F.3d 1068 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1997)  
*Florey v. Sioux Falls Sch. Dist. 49-5*, 619 F.2d 1311 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1980)  
*Roark v. South Iron R-1 Sch. Dist.*, 573 F.3d 556 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009)  
*Child Evangelism Fellowship v. Elk River Area Sch. Dist. No. 728*, 599 F.Supp.2d 1136 (D. Minn. 2009)  
*LeVake v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 656*, 625 N.W.2d 502 (Minn. App. 2001)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169-J (Feb. 14, 1968)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169-K (Oct. 21, 1949)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 63 (1940)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 120 (1924)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 121 (1924)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 801 (Equal Access to School Facilities)

## 613 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

***[Note: The requirements set forth in this policy govern the graduation standards that Minnesota public schools must require for a high school diploma for all students.]***

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth requirements for graduation from the education district.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the education district is that all students ~~entering grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later~~ must demonstrate, as determined by the education district, their satisfactory completion of the credit requirements and their understanding of academic standards. The education district must adopt graduation requirements that meet or exceed state graduation requirements established in law or rule.

### 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 education district.
- B. "English language learners" or "ELL" student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency. ~~Individualized Education Program" or "IEP" means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services.~~
- C. "Individualized Education Program" or "IEP" means a written statement developed for a student eligible by law for special education and services. ~~English language learners" or "ELL" student means an individual whose first language is not English and whose test performance may be negatively impacted by lack of English language proficiency.~~
- D. "Required standard" means: (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, health, and the arts, and (2) ~~a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health.~~ Locally developed academic standards in health apply until statewide rules implementing statewide health standards under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.021, subdivision 3, are required to be implemented in the classroom.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this change. Paragraphs B and C are flipped to create alphabetical order.]**

- E. "Section 504 Accommodation" means the defined appropriate accommodations or modifications that must be made in the school environment to address the needs of an individual student with disabilities.

### IV. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

Brian Cashman, Coordinator of Alternate Programs shall be named the District Assessment Coordinator. Said person shall be in charge of all test procedures and shall bring recommendations to the education district board annually for approval.

## V. ~~GRADUATION ASSESSMENT~~ GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### A. Graduation Requirements

~~For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, s~~Students' state graduation requirements, based on a longitudinal, systematic approach to student education and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation, include the following:

- ~~A.1.~~ Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, consistent with paragraph (k) and to the extent available, to monitor students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analyze students' progress and performance levels, identifying students' academic strengths and diagnosing areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and, based on analysis of students' progress and performance data, determine students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student;~~Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, as measured against a continuum of empirically derived, clearly defined benchmarks focused on students' attainment of knowledge and skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without the need for postsecondary remediation and which facilitates the monitoring of students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analysis of students' progress and performance levels, identification of students' academic strengths and diagnosis of areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and determination of students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student based on analysis of students' progress and performance data; and~~
- ~~B~~ 2.. Consistent with this paragraph and Minnesota Statutes section 120B.125 (see *Policy 604, Section II.H.*), age-appropriate exploration and planning activities and career assessments to encourage students to identify personally relevant career interests and aptitudes and help students and their families develop a regularly reexamined transition plan for postsecondary education or employment without need for postsecondary remediation.
- ~~C~~ 3. Based on appropriate state guidelines, students with an IEP may satisfy state graduation requirements by achieving an individual score on the state-identified alternative assessments.

### ~~DB~~ Targeted Instruction Plan

- ~~A~~ 1. ~~S~~Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section must receive targeted, relevant, academically rigorous, and resourced instruction which may include a targeted instruction and intervention plan focused on improving the student's knowledge and skills in core subjects so that the student has a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without need for postsecondary remediation.
- ~~E~~ 2. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.13, 124D.09, 124D.091, 124D.49, and related sections, an enrolling school or district must actively encourage a student in grade 11 or 12 who is identified as academically ready for a career or college to participate in courses and programs awarding college credit to high school students. Students are not required to achieve a specified score or level of proficiency on an assessment under this subdivision to graduate from high school~~Students meeting the state graduation requirements under this section and who are students in grade 11 or 12 and who are identified as academically ready for a career or college are actively encouraged by the~~

~~education district to participate in courses and programs awarding college credit to high school students. Students are not required to achieve a specified score or level of proficiency on an assessment to graduate from high school.~~

3. As appropriate, students through grade 12 must continue to participate in targeted instruction, intervention, or remediation and be encouraged to participate in courses awarding college credit to high school students.

**[NOTE:] The revisions in Paragraphs A and B align the model policy language with Minnesota Statutes 120B.303]**

~~F~~C. A student's progress toward career and college readiness must be recorded on the student's high school transcript.

## **VI. GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

Students ~~beginning 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2012-2013 school year and later~~ must successfully complete, as determined by the education district, the following high school level credits for graduation:

### **A. Credit Requirements**

1. Four credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in English language arts;

~~B~~ 2.. Three credits of mathematics, ~~including an algebra II credit or its equivalent,~~ sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;

~~C. An algebra I credit by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade sufficient to satisfy all of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade standards in mathematics;~~~~C~~

~~D~~ 3.. Three credits of science, including one credit to satisfy all the earth and space science standards for grades 9 through 12, one credit to satisfy all the life science standards for grades 9 through 12, and one credit to satisfy all the chemistry or physics standards for grades 9 through 12;~~Three credits of science, including at least: (a) one credit of biology; (b) one credit of chemistry or physics; and (c) one elective credit of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy (i) all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) all other academic standards in science;~~

~~E~~ 4. Three and one-half credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship in either grade 11 or 12 for students beginning in grade 9 in the 2025-2026 school year and later or an advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other rigorous course on government and citizenship under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.21, subdivision 1a, and a combination of other credits encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;

[NOTE: This revision includes the 2024 change on implementation of the government and citizenship requirement to the 2025-26 school year.]-

~~F~~ 5. One credit in the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts; and

~~G~~ 6. Credit sufficient to satisfy the state standards in physical education: and

7. A minimum of seven elective credits.

8. Students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later must

successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12. A teacher of a personal finance course that satisfies the graduation requirement must have a field license or out-of-field permission in agricultural education, business, family and consumer science, social studies, or math.

[NOTE: The revisions above align the policy language with Minnesota law, including changes enacted by the 2024 Minnesota legislature concerning physical education credit and state standards in health. Paragraph 8 was enacted in 2023; it affects students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-25 school year.]

**HB.** Credit equivalencies

1. A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agricultural, food, and natural resources education or business education program or department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies under Paragraph E., above, if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
2. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under Paragraph ~~D~~C., above, if the credit meets the state physical science, life science, earth and space science, chemistry, or physics academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the education district. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under Paragraph ~~D~~C., above, if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the education district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry ~~or physics~~ academic standards **or all of the physics academic standards** prior to graduation. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under Paragraph ~~D~~C., above.
3. A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph ~~F~~E., above.
4. A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under Paragraph B., above, if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.
5. A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a mathematics or science credit requirement under Paragraph B. or Paragraph D., above, if the credit meets the state academic standards in mathematics or science.
6. An ethnic studies course may fulfill a social studies, language arts, arts, math, or science credit if the course meets the applicable state academic standards. An ethnic studies course may fulfill an elective credit if the course meets applicable local standards or other requirements.

***[Note: The revisions above align the policy language with Minnesota law, including changes enacted by the 2024 Minnesota legislature. Starting in the 2026-27 school year, a high school must offer an ethnic studies course; in elementary and middle schools by the 2027-28 school year.]***

**VII. GRADUATION STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS**

- A. All students must demonstrate their understanding of the following academic standards:
  1. School District Standards, Health (K-12);
  2. School District Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12); and

3. School District Standards, World Languages (K-12).
- B. Academic standards in health, world languages, and career and technical education will be reviewed on an annual basis.\* A education district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.
- \* Reviews are required to be conducted on a periodic basis. Therefore, this time period may be changed to accommodate individual education district needs.
- C. All students must satisfactorily complete the following required Graduation Standards in accordance with the standards developed by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE):
1. Minnesota Academic Standards, English Language Arts K-12;
  2. Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12;
  3. Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12;
  4. Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12; and
  5. Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12.
- D. State standards in the Arts K-12 are available, or education districts may choose to develop their own standards.
- E. The academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all students except the very few students with extreme cognitive or physical impairments for whom an IEP team has determined that the required academic standards are inappropriate. An IEP team that makes this determination must establish alternative standards.

### **VIII. EARLY GRADUATION**

Students may be considered for early graduation, as provided for within Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.07, upon meeting the following conditions:

- A. All course or standards and credit requirements must be met;
- B. The principal or designee shall conduct an interview with the student and parent or guardian, familiarize the parties with opportunities available in post-secondary education, and arrive at a timely decision; and
- C. The principal's decision shall be in writing and may be subject to review by the executive director and education district board.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.024 (Credits)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.07 (Early Graduation)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness—the World's Best Workforce)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (General Requirements: Statewide

Assessment ~~Statewide Testing and Reporting System~~  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.303 (Assessment Graduation Requirements)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.307 (College and Career Readiness)  
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)~~  
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0660 (Academic Standards For Kindergarten through Grade 12)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Part 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12 for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.09 6055 (Academic Standards in Science)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)  
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 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 616 (School District System Accountability)



## 614 EDUCATION DISTRICT TESTING PLAN AND PROCEDURE

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the education district's testing plan and procedure.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the education district is to implement procedures for testing, test security, documentation, and record keeping.

### III. DUTIES OF EDUCATION DISTRICT PERSONNEL REGARDING TEST ADMINISTRATION

*[Note: This listing of education district personnel may not be consistent with the personnel in the education district and, consequently, should be amended to reflect the personnel with responsibility for testing in the education district.]*

#### A. Executive director

1. Responsibilities before testing.
  - a. Designate a district assessment coordinator and district technology coordinator.
  - b. The executive director, or a designee who has been authorized to be the identified official with authority by the education district board, pre-authorizes staff access for applicable Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) secure systems.
  - c. Annually review and recertify staff who have access to MDE secure systems.
  - d. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.

**[Note: This form is available on the Minnesota Pearson Access Next website - see Cross references for website address.]**

- e. Establish a culture of academic integrity.

- f. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) audits during testing.
  - g. Ensure student information is current and accurate.
  - h. Ensure that a current district test security procedure is in place and that all relevant staff have been provided district training on test administration and test security.
  - i. Ensure that a current process is included for tracking which students tested with which test monitors and any other adult(s) who were present in the testing room (e.g., staff providing assistance, paraprofessionals, etc.).
  - j. Confirm the district assessment coordinator has current information and training specific to test security and the administration of statewide assessments.
  - k. Confirm the district assessment coordinator completes Pre-test Editing in the Test Web Edit System (WES).
  - l. Post on the education district website the complete Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing form.
2. Responsibilities after testing.
- a. Confirm the district assessment coordinator and Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System (MARSS) coordinator complete Post-test Editing in Test WES.
  - b. Verify with the district assessment coordinator that all test security issues have been reported to MDE and are being addressed.
  - c. Confirm the MARSS coordinator has updated all student records for Post-test Editing.
  - d. Confirm the district assessment coordinator has finalized the district's assessment information prior to the close of Post-test Editing in Test WES.
  - e. Confirm the district assessment coordinator, or designee, has access to the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system and enters necessary information.

- f. Discuss assessment results with the district assessment coordinator and education district administrators.

B. District Assessment Coordinator

- 1. Responsibilities before testing.
  - a. Serve as primary contact with MDE regarding policy and procedure questions related to test administration.
  - b. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
  - c. Confirm all staff who handle test materials, administer tests, or have access to secure test content have completed the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
    - (1) Maintain the completed *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure* for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
  - d. Review with all staff the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure* and their responsibilities thereunder.
  - e. Identify appropriate tests for students and ensure student data sent to service providers for testing are correct.
  - f. Establish district testing schedule within the testing windows specified by the MDE and service providers.
  - g. Prepare testing conditions, including user access to service provider websites, preparing readiness for online testing, preparing a plan for tracking which students test on which computers or devices, ensure accommodations are indicated as necessary, providing students with opportunity to become familiar with test format, item types, and tools prior to test administration; establishing process for inventorying and distributing secure test materials where necessary; preparing procedures for expected and unexpected situations occurring during testing; planning for addressing technical issues while testing; identify staff who will enter student responses from paper accommodated test materials and scores from MTAS administration online.
  - h. Train education district assessment coordinators, test monitors, MTAS test administrators, and ACCESS (test for English language learners) and Alternate ACCESS test administrators.

- (1) Provide training on proper test administration and test security (Pearson’s Training Management System).
    - (2) Verify staff complete any and all test-specific training.
  - i. Maintain security of test content, test materials, and record of all staff involved.
    - (1) Receive secure paper test materials from the service provider and immediately lock them in a previously identified secure area, inventory same, and contact service provider with any discrepancies.
    - (2) Organize secure test materials for online administrations and keep them secure.
    - (3) Define chain of custody for providing test materials to test monitors and administrators. The chain of custody must address the process for providing test materials on the day of testing, distributing test materials to and collecting test materials from students at the time of testing, keeping test materials secure between testing sessions, and returning test materials after testing is completed.
  - j. Confirm that all students have appropriate test materials.
- 2. Responsibilities on testing day(s).
  - a. Conduct random, unannounced visits to testing rooms to observe staff adherence to test security and policies and procedures.
  - b. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.
  - c. Contact the MDE assessment contact within 24 hours of a security breach and submit the *Test Security Notification* in Test WES within 48 hours.
  - d. Address invalidations and test or accountability codes.
- 3. Responsibilities after testing.
  - a. Ensure that student responses from paper accommodated test materials and MTAS scores are entered.

- b. Arrange for secure disposal of all test materials that are not required to be returned within 48 hours after the close of the testing window.
- c. Return secure test materials as outlined in applicable manuals and resources.
- d. Collect security documents and maintain them for two years from the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
- e. Review student assessment data and resolve any issues.
- f. Distribute Individual Student Reports no later than fall parent/teacher conferences.
- g. Enter Graduation Requirements Records in the GRR system.

C. Education district Principal

- 1. Responsibilities before testing.
  - a. Designate an education district assessment coordinator and technology coordinator for the building.
  - b. Be knowledgeable about proper test administration and test security as outlined in manuals and directions.
  - c. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
  - d. Communicate the importance of test security and expectation that staff will keep test content secure and act with honesty and integrity during test administration.
  - e. Provide adequate secure storage space for secure test materials before, during, and after testing until they are returned to the service provider or securely disposed of.
  - f. Ensure adequate computers and/or devices are available and rooms appropriately set up for online testing.
  - g. Verify that all test monitors and test administrators receive proper training for test administration.
  - h. Ensure students taking specified tests have opportunity to become familiar with test format, item types, and tools prior to test administration.

i. Include the complete Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing form in the student handbook.

2. Responsibilities on testing day(s).

a. Ensure that test administration policies and procedures and test security requirements in all manuals and directions are followed.

b. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.

3. Responsibilities after testing.

a. Ensure all secure test materials are collected, returned, and/or disposed of securely as required in any manual.

b. Ensure requirements for embargoed final assessment results are followed.

D. Education district Assessment Coordinator

1. Responsibilities before testing.

a. Implement test administration and test security policies and procedures.

b. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.

c. Ensure all staff who handle test materials, administer tests, or have access to secure test content read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.

d. Identify appropriate tests for students and ensure student data sent to service providers for testing are correct.

e. Prepare testing conditions, including the following: schedule rooms and computer labs; arrange for test monitors and administrators; arrange for additional staff to assist with unexpected situations; arrange for technology staff to assist with technical issues; develop a plan for tracking which students test on which computers or devices; plan seating arrangements for

students; ensure preparations are completed for Optional Local Purpose Assessment (OLPA), Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA), and ACCESS online testing; ensure accommodations are properly reported; confirm how secure paper test materials will arrive and quantities to expect; address accommodations and specific test administration procedures; determine staff who will enter the student responses from paper accommodated test materials and scores from MTAS administrations online.

- f. Train staff, including all state-provided training materials, policies and procedures, and test-specific training.
- g. Maintain security of test content and test materials.
  - (1) Receive secure paper test materials from the service provider and immediately lock them in a previously identified secure area, inventory same, and contact service provider with any discrepancies.
  - (2) Organize secure test materials for online administrations and keep them secure.
  - (3) Follow chain of custody for providing test materials to test monitors and administrators. The chain of custody must address the process for providing test materials on the day of testing, distributing test materials to and collecting test materials from students at the time of testing, keeping test materials secure between testing sessions, and returning test materials after testing is completed.
  - (4) Identify need for additional test materials to district assessment coordinator.
  - (5) Provide MTAS student data collection forms if necessary.
  - (6) Distribute applicable ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS *Test Administrator Scripts* and *Test Administration Manuals* to test administrators so they can become familiar with the script and prepare for test administration.
  - (7) Confirm that all students taking ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS have appropriate test materials and preprinted student information on the label is accurate.

2. Responsibilities on testing day(s).

- a. Distribute materials to test monitors and ACCESS test administrators and ensure security of test materials between testing sessions and that district procedures are followed.
- b. Ensure *Test Monitor and Student Directions* and *Test Administrator Scripts* are followed and answer questions regarding same.
- c. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits, as applicable.
- d. Conduct random, unannounced visits to testing rooms to observe staff adherence to test security and test administration policies and procedures.
- e. Report testing irregularities to district assessment coordinator using the *Test Administration Report*.

**[Note: This form is available on the Minnesota Pearson Access Next website - see Cross References for website address.]**

- f. Report security breaches to the district assessment coordinator as soon as possible.

3. Responsibilities after testing.

- a. Ensure that all paper test materials are kept locked and secure and security checklists completed.
- b. Ensure that student responses from paper accommodated test materials and MTAS scores are entered.
- c. Arrange for secure disposal of all test materials that are not required to be returned within 48 hours after the close of the testing window.
- d. Return secure test materials as outlined in applicable manuals and resources.
- e. Prepare materials for pickup by designated carrier on designated date(s). Maintain security of all materials.
- f. Ensure requirements for embargoed final assessment results are followed.

E. Technology Coordinator



1. Ensure that district is prepared for online test administration and provide technical support to district staff.
2. Acquire all necessary user identifications and passwords.
3. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
4. Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.
5. Attend district training and any service provider technology training.
6. Review, use, and be familiar with all service provider technical documentation.
7. Prepare computers and devices for online testing.
8. Confirm site readiness.
9. Provide all necessary accessories for testing, technical support/troubleshooting during test administration and contact service provider help desks as needed.

F. Test Monitor

1. Responsibilities before testing.
  - a. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
  - b. Attend trainings related to test administration and security.
  - c. Complete required training course(s) for tests administering.
  - d. Be knowledgeable about how to contact the education district assessment coordinator during testing, where to pick up materials on day of test, and plan for securing test materials between test sessions.
  - e. Be knowledgeable regarding student accommodations.
  - f. Remove or cover any instructional posters or visual materials in the testing room.
2. Responsibilities on testing day(s).
  - a. Before test.

- (1) Receive and maintain security of test materials.
  - (2) Verify that all test materials are received.
  - (3) Ensure proper number of computers/devices or paper accommodated test materials are present.
  - (4) Verify student testing tickets and appropriate allowable materials.
  - (5) Assign numbered test books to individual students.
  - (6) Complete information as directed.
  - (7) Record extra test materials.
- b. During test.
- (1) Verify that students are logged in and taking the correct test or using the correct grade-level and tier test booklet for students with paper accommodated test materials.
  - (2) Follow all directions and scripts exactly.
  - (3) Follow procedures for restricting student access to cell phones and other electronic devices, including wearable electronic devices.
  - (4) Stay in testing room and remain attentive during entire test session. Practice active monitoring by circulating throughout the room during testing.
- [Note: Education districts may allow test monitors to use their cell phones only to alert other staff of issues. If allowed, the education district should train the test monitors on proper and improper use.]***
- (5) Be knowledgeable about responding to emergency or unusual circumstances and technology issues.
  - (6) Do not review, discuss, capture, email, post, or share test content in any format.
  - (7) Ensure all students have been provided the opportunity to independently demonstrate their knowledge.

- (8) Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.
  - (9) Document the students who tested with the test monitor and any other adult(s) who were present in the testing room (e.g., staff providing assistance, paraprofessionals, etc.).
  - (10) Document students who require a scribe or translated directions or any unusual circumstances and report to education district assessment coordinator.
  - (11) Report any possible security breaches as soon as possible.
- c. After test.
- (1) Follow directions and scripts exactly.
  - (2) Collect all materials and keep secure after each session. Upon completion return to the education district assessment coordinator.
  - (3) Immediately report any missing test materials to the education district assessment coordinator.

G. MTAS Test Administrator

- 1. Before testing.
  - a. Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.
  - b. Attend trainings related to test administration and security.
  - c. Complete required training course(s) for tests administering.
  - d. Be knowledgeable as to when and where to pick up MTAS materials and the education district 's plan for keeping test materials secure.
  - e. Prepare test materials for administration, including objects and manipulatives, special instructions, and specific adaptations for each student.
- 2. Responsibility on testing day(s).
  - a. Before the test.

- (1) Maintain security of materials.
  - (2) Confirm appropriate MTAS materials are available and prepared for student.
- b. During the test.
- (1) Administer each task to each student and record the score.
  - (2) Be knowledgeable about how to contact the district or education district assessment coordinator, if necessary, and responding to emergency and unusual circumstances.
  - (3) Fully cooperate with MDE representatives conducting site visits or MTAS audits.
  - (4) Document and report and unusual circumstances to district or education district assessment coordinator.
- c. After the test.
- (1) Keep materials secure.
  - (2) Return all materials.
  - (3) Return objects and manipulatives to classroom.
  - (4) Enter MTAS scores online or return data collection forms to the district or education district assessment coordinator.

H. MARSS Coordinator

- 1. Responsibilities before testing.
  - a. Confirm all eligible students have unique state student identification (SSID) or MARSS numbers.
  - b. Ensure English language and special education designations are current and correct for students testing based on those designations.
  - c. Submit MARSS data on an ongoing basis to ensure accurate student demographic and enrollment information.
- 2. Responsibilities after testing.

- a. Ensure accurate enrollment of students in schools during the accountability windows.
- b. Ensure MARSS identifying characteristics are correct, especially for any student not taking an accountability test.
- c. Work with district assessment coordinator to edit discrepancies during the Post-test Edit window in Test WES.

I. Any Person with Access to Test Materials

Read and complete the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure*.

#### IV. TEST SECURITY

- A. Test Security Procedures will be adopted by education district administration.

**[Note: This form is available on the Minnesota Pearson Access Next website - see Cross References for website address]**

- B. Students will be informed of the following:

1. The importance of test security;
2. Expectation that students will keep test content secure;
3. Expectation that students will act with honesty and integrity during test administration;
4. Expectation that students will not access cell phones, wearable technology (e.g., smart watches, fitness trackers), or other devices that can electronically send or receive information. The test of a student who wears a device during testing must be invalidated.

If a student completes testing and then accesses a cell phone or other prohibited device (including wearable technology), the education district must take further action to determine if the test should be invalidated, rather than automatically invalidating the test.

5. Availability of the online Test Security Tip Line on the MDE website for reporting suspected incidents of cheating or other improper or unethical behavior.
- C. Staff will be informed of the following:
1. Availability of the online Test Security Tip Line on the MDE website for reporting suspected incidents of cheating or other improper or unethical behavior.
  2. Other contact information and options for reporting security concerns.

**V. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR PROGRAM AUDIT**

- A. The education district shall maintain records necessary for program audits conducted by MDE. The records must include documentation consisting of the following:
1. Signed *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure* forms must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic year in which the testing took place.
  2. Education district security checklists provided in the test materials shipment must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
  3. School security checklists provided in the test materials shipment must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
  4. Test Monitor Test Materials Security Checklist provided for each group of students assigned to a test monitor must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
- [Note: This form is included in the 614 Form file of the Policy Reference Manual.]***
5. Education district test monitor tracking documentation must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic year in which the tracking took place.
  6. ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Packing List and Security Checklist provided in the test materials shipment must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.

7. Documentation of education district staff training on test administration and test security must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
8. *Test Security Notification* must be maintained for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
9. *Test Administration Report* must be maintained for one year after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
10. Record of staff trainings and test-specific trainings must be maintained for one year after the end of the academic year in which testing took place.

## VI. RETALIATION PROHIBITED

An employee who discloses information to the MDE Commissioner or a parent or guardian about service disruptions or technical interruptions related to administering assessments under this section is protected under section 181.932, governing disclosure of information by employees.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision.]**

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 13.34 (Examination Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness ~~the World's Best Workforce~~)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.36, Subd. 2 (School Accountability)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.066055 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.096055 (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 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP

Students)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616 (School District System Accountability)

Minnesota PearsonAccess Next Resources and Forms:

<http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/policies-and-procedures/>



## **615 TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS FOR IEPs, SECTION 504 PLANS, AND LEP STUDENTS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the policy is to provide adequate opportunity for students identified as having individualized education program (IEP), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § Section 504 accommodation plan (504 plan), or English Learner (EL) needs to participate in statewide assessment systems designed to hold schools accountable for the academic performance of all students.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

#### **A. Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)**

1. The education district will utilize the existing annual review of IEPs or 504 plans to review, on a case-by-case basis, and determine how a student with a disability will participate in statewide testing.
2. Participation decisions will be made separately for mathematics, reading, and science. The assessment options are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) and the MTAS.
3. Eligibility Requirements
  - a. The following requirements must be met for a student with a significant cognitive disability to be eligible for the MTAS:
    - (1) The IEP team must consider the student's ability to access the MCA, with or without accommodations;
    - (2) The IEP must review the student's instructional program to ensure that the student is receiving instruction linked to the general education curriculum to the extent appropriate. If instruction is not linked to the general education curriculum, the IEP team must review the student's goals and determine how access to the general curriculum will be provided;
    - (3) The IEP team determined the student's cognitive functioning to be significantly below age expectations. The

team also determined that the student's disability has a significant impact on his or her ability to function in multiple environments, including home, school, and community;

- (4) The IEP team determined that the student needs explicit and intensive instruction and/or extensive supports in multiple settings to acquire, maintain, and generalize academic and life skills in order to actively participate in school, work, home, and community environments;
- (5) The IEP team must document, in the IEP, reasons the MCA is or is not an appropriate measure of the student's academic progress and how the student would participate in statewide testing.

b. MTAS participation decisions must not be made on the following factors:

- (1) Student's disability category;
- (2) Placement;
- (3) Participation in a separate, specialized curriculum;
- (4) An expectation that the student will receive a low score on the MCA;
- (5) Language, social, cultural, or economic differences;
- (6) Concern for accountability calculations.

B. Alternate ACCESS for ELs

1. The education district will utilize the existing annual review of IEPs or 504 plans to review, on a case-by-case basis, and determine how an identified EL student with a disability will participate in statewide testing.
2. Eligibility Requirements
  - a. The student must be identified as EL in MARSS in order to take an English language proficiency assessment.
  - b. The student must have a significant cognitive disability. If the student has been identified as eligible to take the MTAS in mathematics, reading, or science, the student meets this criterion.

- c. For students in grades that the MTAS is not administered:
  - (1) the student must have cognitive functioning significantly below age level;
  - (2) the student's disability must have a significant impact on his or her ability to function in multiple environments, including home, school, and community; and
  - (3) the student needs explicit and intensive instruction and/or extensive supports in multiple settings to acquire, maintain, and generalize academic and life skills in order to actively participate in school, work, home, and community environments.
- d. The IEP team must consider the student's ability to access the ACCESS, with or without accommodations.
- e. The IEP team must document, in the IEP, reasons the MCA is or is not an appropriate English language proficiency assessment for the student.

3. Alternate ACCESS participation decisions must not be made on the following factors:

- a. Student's disability category;
- b. Participation in a separate, specialized curriculum;
- c. Current level of English language proficiency;
- d. The expectation that the student will receive a low score on the ACCESS for ELs;
- e. Language, social, cultural, or economic differences;
- f. Concern for accountability calculations.

C. EL Students New to the United States

EL students new to the United States will take all assessments, including all academic assessments (math, reading, and science), as well as the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ACCESS).

### III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

See the current “Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments” which is produced by the Minnesota Department of Education and available through [minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/policies-and-procedures](http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/policies-and-procedures).

### IV. GRANTING AND DOCUMENTING ACCOMMODATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, OR EXEMPTIONS FOR TESTING

See Chapter 5 of the current “Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments” and ~~2020-21~~ Guidelines for Administration of Accommodations and Linguistic Supports ([http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/resources/resources-training/manuals/GuidelinesforAccommodations\\_2018.pdf](http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/resources/resources-training/manuals/GuidelinesforAccommodations_2018.pdf)).

### V. RECORDS

All test accommodations, modifications, or exemptions shall be reported to the school district test administrator. The education district test administrator shall be responsible for keeping a list of all such test accommodations, modifications, and exemptions for school district audit purposes. Testing results will be documented and reported.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement ~~Goals~~; Striving for ~~Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness the World’s Best Workforce~~)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.08 (a)(1) (Individualized Education Programs)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.06660 ~~40-3501.0655~~ (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 3501.0900-3501.09 ~~6055~~ (Academic Standards in Science)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation-Required Assessment for Diploma) (repealed Minn. L. 2013, Ch. 116, Art. 2, § 22)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)  
Eligibility Requirements for the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS), <https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/hiddencontent/mdaw/mda2/~edisp/006087.pdf>

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Participation Guidelines,  
<https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/hiddencontent/mdaw/mdq5/~edisp/049763.pdf>

***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 616 (School District System Accountability)

## **616 EDUCATION DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY**

***[Note: Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11 requires education districts to adopt a comprehensive long-term strategic plan that addresses the review of curriculum, instruction, student achievement, and assessment. Model Policies 601, 603, and 616 address these statutory requirements. In addition, Model Policies 613-615 and 617-620 provide procedures to further implement the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to focus public education strategies on a process that promotes higher academic achievement for all students and ensures broad-based community participation in decisions regarding 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 requires accountability for the education district. The education district established a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards. The education district also established a system to review and improve instruction, curriculum, and assessment which will include substantial input by students, parents or guardians, and local community members. The education district will be accountable to the public and the state through annual reporting.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “ **Comprehensive achievement and civic readiness** ~~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 ~~;~~ **and prepare students to be lifelong learners.**

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature revised Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, including replacement of the term “world’s best workforce” with “comprehensive achievement and civic readiness.”]

- B. “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 education district.education

### **IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; EVALUATION AND REPORTING**

#### **A. Education District Goals**

1. The education district board has established education district-wide goals that provide broad direction for the education district. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law. The broad goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the education district board. The education district

board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the education district's Advisory Committee.

2. The District Advisory Committee created under Policy 603 (Curriculum Development) is established by the education district 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 education district-wide improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the District Advisory Committee process. The education district's goal setting process will include consideration of individual site goals. Education 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 All Instruction and Curriculum. Incorporated in the process will be analysis of the education 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.

***[Insert Local Cycle in this space]***

C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. The District Advisory Committee shall also advise the education district board on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including K-12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities, and other related issues. Recommendations of the District Advisory Committee shall be published annually to the community. The education district board shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update this policy at least annually.
2. The education district board shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at each school site meet federal expectations. If the education district board determines that student achievement levels at a school site do not meet federal expectations and the site has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years, the District Advisory Committee shall work with the school site to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels to meet federal expectations. The District Advisory 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 education district 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 education district board will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The education district board must coordinate with MDE in evaluating school sites and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.

D. Comprehensive Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

1. By September 1 of each year, the District Advisory Committee will meet to advise and assist the education district in the implementation of the education district system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process.
  
2. The District Advisory Committee, working in cooperation with other committees of the education district [*such as the Technology, Educational Effectiveness, Grade Level, Site Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Committees, etc.*], will provide active community participation in:
  - a. Reviewing the education district instructional and curriculum plan, with emphasis on implementing the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards;
  - b. Identifying annual instruction and curriculum improvement goals for recommendation to the education district board;
  - c. Making recommendations regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure education district progress toward its goals; and,
  - d. Advising the education district board about development of the annual budget.
  
3. The District Advisory Committee shall meet the following criteria:
  - a. The District Advisory Committee shall ensure active community participation in all planning for instruction and curriculum affecting Graduation Standards.
  - b. The District Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the education district board on education 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 education 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 District Advisory Committee in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the education district board.
  
5. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.
  
6. The District Advisory Committee shall meet the following timeline each year:
 

Month: Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the education district board.

Month(s): Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum of the cycle content area.



Month(s): Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations.

Month: Present recommendations to the education district board for its input and approval.

- ~~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 District 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 education district board.

**[NOTE: The education district board may choose to delete this paragraph regarding an Evaluation of Student Progress Committee upon consultation with education district administration]**

~~FE.~~ Reporting

1. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.36, subdivision. 1, the education district board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in the district, by mail, or by electronic means on the education district website. The education district 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 education district success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to ~~comprehensive achievement and civic readiness~~ ~~the world's best workforce~~. The education district board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. The education 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 education district shall include the results of this evaluation in its published reports and in its summary report to the Commissioner.
2. The school performance report for a school site and an education district must include performance reporting information and calculate proficiency rates as required by the most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
3. The education district must annually report the district's class size ratios by each grade to the ~~C~~ommissioner of education in the form and manner specified by the ~~C~~ommissioner.
4. The education district must report whether programs funded with compensatory revenue are consistent with best practices demonstrated to improve student achievement.

**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 AchievementGoals; Striving for ~~Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness~~ ~~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 3501.06 ~~6040-3501.0655~~ (Academic Standards for Language Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.09 ~~6055~~ (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)

## **620 CREDIT FOR LEARNING**

***[Note: Education districts statutorily are required to provide students with credit for approved post-secondary courses, as set forth in Section V.; and accelerated or advanced academic courses offered by a higher education institution or nonprofit public agency, as set forth in Section VII. Additionally, education districts are required by statute to identify whether the education district offers weighted grades and, if it does, identify the courses for which a student may earn a weighted grade (Section VIII). Optional provisions related to awarding credit to students transferring from out-of-state, private, or home schools and the issuance of student grades for purposes of awarding certain honors, as set forth in Section IV., are not required by statute. Therefore, the language contained in Section IV. is suggested language, and an education district may or may not include this section or may modify this section at its discretion.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

This policy recognizes student achievement that occurs in postsecondary enrollment options and other advanced enrichment programs. This policy also recognizes student achievement that occurs in other schools, in alternative learning sites, and in out-of-school experiences such as community organizations, work-based learning, and other educational activities and opportunities. This policy addresses transfer of student credit from out-of-state, private, or home schools and online learning programs and to address how the education district will recognize student achievement obtained outside of the education district.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The policy of the education district is to provide a process for awarding students credit toward graduation requirements for credits and grades students complete in other schools, postsecondary or higher education institutions, other learning environments, and online courses and programs.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Accredited school" means a school that is accredited by an accrediting agency, recognized according to Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.445 or recognized by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (Commissioner).
- B. "Concurrent enrollment" means nonsectarian courses in which an eligible pupil under subdivision 5 or 5b enrolls to earn both secondary and postsecondary credits, are taught by a secondary teacher or a postsecondary faculty member, and are offered at a high school for which the district is eligible to receive concurrent enrollment program aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.091.
- C. "Course" means a course or program.
- D. "Eligible institution" means a Minnesota public postsecondary institution, a private, nonprofit two-year trade and technical school granting associate degrees, an opportunities industrialization center accredited by an accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education, or a private, residential, two-year or four-year, liberal arts, degree-granting college or university located in Minnesota. An eligible institution must not require a faith statement from a secondary student seeking to enroll in a postsecondary course under this section during the application process or base any part of the admission decision on a student's race, creed, ethnicity, disability,

gender, or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations.

- E. "Nonpublic school" is a private school or home school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with the Minnesota compulsory attendance laws.
- F. "Weighted grade" is a letter or numerical grade that is assigned a numerical advantage when calculating the grade point average.

#### IV. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

##### A. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Minnesota Public Secondary Schools

- 1. The education district will accept and transfer secondary credits and grades awarded to a student from another Minnesota public secondary school upon presentation of a certified transcript from the transferring public secondary school evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
- 2. Credits and grades awarded from another Minnesota public secondary school may be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank if a student has earned at least **[insert number]** credits from the education district.

##### B. Transfer of Academic Requirements from Other Schools

- 1. The education district will accept secondary credits and grades awarded to a student for courses successfully completed at a public school outside of Minnesota or an accredited nonpublic school upon presentation of a certified transcript from the transferring public school in another state or nonpublic school evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
  - a. When a determination is made that the content of the course aligns directly with education district graduation requirements, the student will be awarded commensurate credits and grades.
  - b. Commensurate credits and grades awarded from an accredited nonpublic school or public school in another state may be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank if a student has earned at least **[insert number]** credits from the education district.
  - c. In the event the content of a course taken at an accredited nonpublic school or public school in another state does not fully align with the content of the education district's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the school district for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements. Credit that does not fully align with the education district's high school graduation requirements will not be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.
  - d. If no comparable course is offered by the education district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, no credit will be provided to the student.
- 2. Students transferring from a non-accredited, nonpublic school shall receive credit from the education district upon presentation of a transcript or other documentation evidencing the course taken and grade and credit awarded.
  - a. Students will be required to provide copies of course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples for determination of appropriate credit. In addition, students also may be asked to provide interviews/conferences with the student and/or student's parent and/or former administrator or teacher; review of a record of the

student's entire curriculum at the nonpublic school; and review of the student's complete record of academic achievement.

- b. Where the education district determines that a course completed by a student at a non-accredited, nonpublic school is commensurate with education district graduation requirements, credit shall be awarded, but the grade shall be "P" (pass).
  - c. In the event the content of a course taken at an non-accredited, nonpublic school does not fully align with the content of the education district's high school graduation requirements but is comparable to elective credits offered by the education district for graduation, the student may be provided elective credit applied toward graduation requirements.
  - d. If no comparable course is offered by the education district for which local high school graduation credit would be provided, no credit will be provided to the student.
  - e. Credit and grades earned from a non-accredited nonpublic school shall not be used to compute honor roll and/or class rank.
- C. A student must provide the school with a copy of the student's grades in each course taken for secondary credit under this policy, including interim or non-final grades earned during the academic term.

#### **V. POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT CREDIT**

- A. A student who satisfactorily completes a postsecondary enrollment options course or program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09 that has been approved as meeting the necessary requirements is not required to complete other requirements of the academic standards corresponding to that specific rigorous course of study.
- B. Secondary credits granted to a student through a postsecondary enrollment options course or program must be counted toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the district.
  - 1. Course credit will be considered by the education district only upon presentation of a certified transcript from an eligible institution evidencing the course taken and the grade and credit awarded.
  - 2. Seven quarter or four semester postsecondary credits shall equal at least one full year of high school credit. Fewer postsecondary credits may be prorated.
  - 3. When a determination is made that the content of the postsecondary course aligns directly with a required course for high school graduation, the commensurate credit and grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as a course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
  - 4. In the event the content of the postsecondary course does not fully align with the content of a high school course required for graduation but is comparable to elective credits offered by the education district for graduation, the education district may provide elective credit and the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as an elective course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
  - 5. If no comparable course is offered by the education district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the education district will notify the Commissioner, who shall determine the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.

6. When secondary credit is granted for postsecondary credits taken by a student, the education district will record those credits on the student's transcript as credits earned at a postsecondary institution.
- C. A list of the courses or programs meeting the necessary requirements may be obtained from the education district.
- D. By the earlier of (1) three weeks prior to the date by which a student must register for district courses for the following school year, or (2) March 1 of each year, the education district must provide up-to-date information on the district's website and in materials that are distributed to parents and students about the program, including information about enrollment requirements and the ability to earn postsecondary credit to all pupils in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11. To assist the education district in planning, a pupil must inform the district by October 30 or May 30 of each year of the pupil's intent to enroll in postsecondary courses during the following academic term. A pupil is bound by notifying or not notifying the education district by October 30 or May 30.

**[NOTE: Because the 2024 Minnesota legislature amended the last two sentences, MSBA decided to add this language to this model policy.]**

- E. Postsecondary institutions must notify a pupil's school as soon as practicable if the pupil withdraws from the enrolled course. The institution must also notify the pupil's school as soon as practicable if the pupil has been absent from a course for ten consecutive days on which classes are held, based on the postsecondary institution's academic calendar, and the pupil is not receiving instruction in their home or hospital or other facility.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision.]**

## **VI. CREDIT FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

Consistent with the career and technical pathways program, a student in grade 11 or 12 who is employed by an institutional long-term care or licensed assisted living facility, a home and community-based services and supports provider, a hospital or health system clinic, or a child care center may earn up to two elective credits each year toward graduation under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.024, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (7), at the discretion of the enrolling education district. A student may earn one elective credit for every 350 hours worked, including hours worked during the summer. A student who is employed by an eligible employer must submit an application, in the form or manner required by the education district, for elective credit to the education district in order to receive elective credit. The education district must verify the hours worked with the employer before awarding elective credit.

## **VII. ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDIT**

- A. The education district will grant academic credit to a student attending an accelerated or advanced academic course offered by a higher education institution or a nonprofit public agency, other than the education district.
- B. Course credit will be considered only upon official documentation from the higher education institution or nonprofit public agency that the student successfully completed the course, attended and passed an examination approved by the education district.
- C. When a determination is made that the content of the advanced academic course aligns directly with a required course for high school graduation, the commensurate credit and grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as a course credit applied

toward graduation requirements.

- D. In the event the content of the advanced academic course does not fully align with the content of a high school course required for graduation but is comparable to elective credits offered by the education district for graduation, the education district may provide elective credit and the grade will be recorded on the student's transcript as an elective course credit applied toward graduation requirements.
- E. If no comparable course is offered by the education district for which high school graduation credit would be provided, the education district will notify the Commissioner and request a determination of the number of credits that shall be granted to a student.

### **VIII. WEIGHTED GRADES**

***[Note: Education districts must identify in policy whether they offer courses with weighted grades. Therefore, education districts must include one of the following options in their policies. A education district board must adopt an identical policy regarding weighted grade point averages for credits earned via postsecondary coursework as it gives to credits earned via concurrent enrollment coursework.]***

- A. The education district does not offer weighted grades.

### **IX. PROCESS FOR AWARDING CREDIT**

- A. The building principal will be responsible for carrying out the process to award credits and grades pursuant to this policy. The building principal will notify students in writing of the decision as to how credits and grades will be awarded.
- B. A student or the student's parent or guardian may seek reconsideration of the decision by the building principal as to credits and/or grades awarded upon request of a student or the student's parent or guardian if the request is made in writing to the executive director within five school days of the date of the building principal's decision. The request should set forth the credit and/or grade requested and the reason(s) why credit(s)/grade(s) should be provided as requested. Any pertinent documentation in support of the request should be submitted.
- C. The decision of the executive director as to the award of credits or grades shall be a final decision by the education district and shall not be appealable by the student or student's parent or guardian except as set forth in Section IX.D. below.
- D. If a student disputes the number of credits granted by the education district for a particular postsecondary enrollment course, or advanced academic credit course, the student may appeal the education district's decision to the Commissioner. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
- E. At any time during the process, the building principal or executive director may ask for course descriptions, syllabi, or work samples from a course where content of the course is in question for purposes of determining alignment with graduation requirements or the number of credits to be granted. Students will not be provided credit until requested documentation is available for review, if requested.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals; Striving for Comprehensive

~~Achievement and Civic Readiness~~ ~~the World's Best Workforce~~)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.14 (Advanced Academic Credit)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 (Nonpublic Education Council)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03, Subd. 9 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.094 (Online Instruction Act)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.06 ~~6040-3501.0655~~ (Academic Standards for Language Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)

**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 616 (School District System Accountability)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 624 (Online Instruction)



## **624 ONLINE INSTRUCTION**

***[Note: In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature repealed the Online Learning Option Act (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.095) and replaced it with the Online Instruction Act (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.094). This policy fully replaces the old Model Policy 624.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and govern online instruction options of students enrolled in the education district for purposes of compulsory attendance and address enrollment of students with an online instruction site for supplemental or full-time online learning.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The education district shall not prohibit an enrolled student from applying to enroll in online instruction.
- B. The education district shall grant academic credit for completing the requirements of an online instruction course or program.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Blended instruction" means a form of digital instruction that occurs when a student learns part time in a supervised physical setting and part time through online instruction under paragraph (E).
- B. "Digital instruction" means instruction facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of learning and includes blended and online instruction.
- C. "Enrolling district" means the education district in which a student is enrolled under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 4.
- D. "Online course syllabus" means a written document that identifies the state academic standards taught and assessed in a supplemental online course under paragraph (I); course content outline; required course assessments; instructional methods; communication procedures with students, guardians, and the enrolling district under paragraph (C); and supports available to the student.
- E. "Online instruction" means a form of digital instruction that occurs when a student learns primarily through digital technology away from a supervised physical setting.
- F. "Online instructional site" means a site that offers courses using online instruction under paragraph (E) and may enroll students receiving online instruction under paragraph (E).
- G. "Online teacher" means an employee of the enrolling district under paragraph (C) or the supplemental online course provider under paragraph (J) who holds the appropriate licensure under Minnesota Rules, chapter 8710, and is trained to provide online instruction under paragraph (E).

- H. "Student" means a Minnesota resident enrolled in a school defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 4, in kindergarten through grade 12 up to the age of 21.
- I. "Supplemental online course" means an online learning course taken in place of a course provided by the student's enrolling district under paragraph (C).
- J. "Supplemental online course provider" means a education district, an intermediate school district, an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that is authorized by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to provide supplemental online courses under paragraph (I).

#### **IV. DIGITAL INSTRUCTION**

- A. An enrolling district may provide digital instruction, including blended instruction and online instruction, to the district's own enrolled students. Enrolling districts may establish agreements to provide digital instruction, including blended instruction and online instruction, to students enrolled in the cooperating schools.
- B. When online instruction is provided, an online teacher shall perform all duties of teacher of record under Minnesota Rules, part 8710.0310. Unless the Commissioner of MDE grants a waiver, a teacher providing online instruction shall not instruct more than 40 students in any one online learning course or section.
- C. Students receiving online instruction full time shall be reported as enrolled in an online instructional site.
- D. Curriculum used for digital instruction shall be aligned with Minnesota's current academic standards and benchmarks.
- E. Digital instruction shall be accessible to students under sections 504 and 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
- F. An enrolling district providing digital instruction and a supplemental online course provider shall assist an enrolled student whose family qualifies for the education tax credit under Minnesota Statutes, section 290.0674 to acquire computer hardware and educational software so they may participate in digital instruction. Funds provided to a family to support digital instruction or supplemental online courses may only be used for qualifying expenses as determined by the provider. Nonconsumable materials purchased with public education funds remain the property of the provider. Records for any funds provided must be available for review by the public or MDE.
- G. An enrolling district providing digital instruction shall establish and document procedures for determining attendance for membership and keep accurate records of daily attendance under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.21.

#### **V. SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE COURSES**

- A. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 124D.03 and 124D.08 and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 124E, procedures for applying to take supplemental online courses other than those offered by the student's enrolling district are as provided in this subdivision.
- B. Any kindergarten through grade 12 student may apply to take a supplemental online course. The student, or the student's parent or guardian for a student under age 17, must submit an application for the proposed supplemental online course or courses. A student may:

1. apply to take an online course from a supplemental online course provider that meets or exceeds the academic standards of the course in the enrolling district they are replacing;
2. apply to take supplemental online courses for up to 50 percent of the student's scheduled course load; ~~and~~
3. apply to take supplemental online courses no later than 15 school days after the student's enrolling district's term has begun. An enrolling district may waive the 50 percent course enrollment limit or the 15-day time limit; ~~and~~ ▸
4. enroll in additional courses with the online learning provider under a separate agreement that includes terms for paying any tuition or course fees.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature added this provision.]

- C. A student taking a supplemental online course must have the same access to the computer hardware and education software available in a school as all other students in the enrolling district.
- D. A supplemental online course provider must have a current, approved application to be listed by MDE as an approved provider. The supplemental online course provider must:
  1. use an application form specified by MDE;
  2. notify the student, the student's guardian if they are age 17 or younger, and enrolling district of the accepted application to take a supplemental online course within ten days of receiving a completed application;
  3. notify the enrolling district of the course title, credits to be awarded, and the start date of the online course. A supplemental online course provider must make the online course syllabus available to the enrolling district;
  4. request applicable academic support information for the student, including a copy of the IEP, EL support plan, or 504 plan; and
  5. track student attendance and monitor academic progress and communicate with the student, the student's guardian if they are age 17 or younger, and the enrolling district's designated online learning liaison.
- E. A supplemental online course provider may limit enrollment if the provider's education district board or board of directors adopts by resolution specific standards for accepting and rejecting students' applications. The provisions may not discriminate against any protected class or students with disabilities.
- F. A supplemental online course provider may request that MDE review an enrolling district's written decision to not accept a student's supplemental online course application. The student may participate in the supplemental online course while the application is under review. Decisions shall be final and binding for both the enrolling district and the supplemental online course provider.
- G. A supplemental online course provider must participate in continuous improvement cycles with MDE.

## **VI. ENROLLING DISTRICT**

- A. An enrolling district may not restrict or prevent a student from applying to take supplemental online courses.

- B. An enrolling district may request an online course syllabus to review whether the academic standards in the online course meet or exceed the academic standards in the course it would replace at the enrolling district.
- C. Within 15 days after receiving notice of a student applying to take a supplemental online course, the enrolling district must notify the supplemental online course provider whether the student, the student's guardian, and the enrolling district agree that academic standards in the online course meet or exceed the academic standards in the course it would replace at the enrolling district. If the enrolling district does not agree that the academic standards in the online course meet or exceed the academic standards in the course it would replace at the enrolling district, then:
  - 1. the enrolling district must provide a written explanation of the district's decision to the student, the student's guardian, and the supplemental online course provider; and
  - 2. the online provider must provide a response to the enrolling district explaining how the course or program meets the graduation requirements of the enrolling district.
- D. An enrolling district may reduce the course schedule of a student taking supplemental online courses in proportion to the number of supplemental online learning courses the student takes.
- E. An enrolling district must appoint an online learning liaison who:
  - 1. provides information to students and families about supplemental online courses;
  - 2. provides academic support information including IEPs, EL support plans, and 504 plans to supplemental online providers; and
  - 3. monitors attendance and academic progress, and communicates with supplemental online learning providers, students, families, and enrolling district staff.
- F. An enrolling district must continue to provide support services to students taking supplemental online courses as they would for any other enrolled student including support for English learners, case management of an individualized education program, and meal and nutrition services for eligible students.
- G. An online learning student must receive academic credit for completing the requirements of a supplemental online learning course. If a student completes an online learning course that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or the grade progression requirement at the enrolling district, that standard or requirement is met.
- H. Secondary credits granted to a supplemental online learning student count toward the graduation and credit requirements of the enrolling district. The enrolling district must apply the same graduation requirements to all students, including students taking supplemental online courses.
- I. An enrolling district must provide access to extracurricular activities for students taking supplemental online courses on the same basis as any other enrolled student.

## **VII. REPORTING**

Courses that include blended instruction and online instruction must be reported in the manner determined by the Commissioner of MDE.

**LEGAL REFERENCES:**

Minn. Stat. § 120A.21 (Enrollment of a Student in Foster Care)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Board's Approval to Enroll in  
Nonresident District; Exceptions)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.094 (Online Instruction Act)  
~~Minn. Stat. Ch. 124E (Charter Schools)~~  
Minn. Rules Ch. 8710 (Teacher and Other School Professional  
Licensing)

**CROSS REFERENCES:**

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)

## **707 TRANSPORTATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*[Note: The obligations stated in this policy are largely governed by statute. An education district may choose to add obligations to the model policy.]*

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the transportation of students consistent with the requirements of law.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the education district is to provide for the transportation of students in a manner which will protect their health, welfare, and safety.
- B. The education district recognizes that transportation is an essential part of the education district services to students and parents but further recognizes that transportation by education district bus is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Child with a disability” includes every child identified under federal and state special education law as deaf or hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired, deafblind, or having a speech or language impairment, a physical impairment, other health disability, developmental cognitive disability, an emotional or behavioral disorder, specific learning disability, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, or severe multiple impairments, and who needs special education and related services, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner of Education. A licensed physician, an advanced practice nurse, or a licensed psychologist is qualified to make a diagnosis and determination of attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder for purposes of identifying a child with a disability. In addition, every child under age three, and at the education district’s discretion from age three to seven, who needs special instruction and services, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner, because the child has a substantial delay or has an identifiable physical or mental condition known to hinder normal development is a child with a disability. A child with a short-term or temporary physical or emotional illness or disability, as determined by the rules of the Commissioner, is not a child with a disability.

- B. “Home” is the legal residence of the child. In the discretion of the education district, “home” also may be defined as a licensed day care facility, school day care facility, a respite care facility, the residence of a relative, or the residence of a person chosen by the student’s parent or guardian as the home of a student for part or all of the day, if requested by the student’s parent or guardian, or an afterschool program for children operated by a political subdivision of the state, if the facility, residence, or program is within the attendance area of the school the student attends. Unless otherwise specifically provided by law, a homeless student is a resident of the education district if enrolled in the education district.
- C. “Homeless student” means a student, including a migratory student, who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes: students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; are awaiting foster care placement; have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, and migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in any of the preceding listed circumstances.
- D. “Nonpublic school” means any school, church, or religious organization, or home school wherein a resident of Minnesota may legally fulfill the compulsory instruction requirements of Minn. Stat. §120A.22, which is located within the state, and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- E. “Nonresident student” is a student who attends school in the education district and resides in another district, defined as the “nonresident district.” In those instances when the divorced or legally separated parents or parents residing separately share joint physical custody of a student and the parents reside in different school districts, the student shall be a resident of the education district designated by the student’s parents. When parental rights have been terminated by court order, the legal residence of a student placed in a residential or foster facility for care and treatment is the district in which the student resides.
- F. “Pupil support services” are health, counseling, and guidance services provided by the public school in the same district where the nonpublic school is located.
- G. “School of origin,” for purposes of determining the residence of a homeless student, is the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.
- H. “Shared time basis” is a program where students attend public school for part of the regular school day and who otherwise fulfill the requirements of Minn. Stat. §

120A.22 by attendance at a nonpublic school.

- I. “Student” means any student or child attending or required to attend any school as provided in Minnesota law and who is a resident or child of a resident of Minnesota.

#### IV. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Upon the request of a parent or guardian, the education district shall provide transportation to and from school, at the expense of the education district, for all resident students who reside two miles or more from the school, except for those students whose transportation privileges have been revoked or have been voluntarily surrendered by the student’s parent or guardian.
- B. The education may, in its discretion, also provide transportation to any student to and from school, at the expense of the education district, for any other purpose deemed appropriate by the education district board.

**[NOTE: In this section, education districts may wish to outline those discretionary areas where they intend to provide transportation. For example, some education districts may provide that transportation shall be provided for all resident elementary students who reside one mile or more from the school.]**

- C. In the discretion of the education district, transportation along regular school bus routes may also be provided, where space is available, to any person where such use of a bus does not interfere with the transportation of students. The cost of providing such transportation must be paid by those individuals using these services or some third-party payor. Bus transportation also may be provided along school bus routes when space is available for participants in early childhood family education programs and school readiness programs if these services do not result in an increase in the education district’s expenditures for transportation.
- D. For purposes of stabilizing enrollment and reducing mobility, the education district may, in its discretion, establish a full-service school zone and may provide transportation for students attending a school in that full-service school zone. A full-service school zone may be established for a school that is located in an area with higher than average crime or other social and economic challenges and that provides education, health or human services, or other parental support in collaboration with a city, county, state, or nonprofit agency.

#### V. TRANSPORTATION OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

- A. If requested by the parent of a nonresident student, the school district shall provide transportation to a nonresident student within its borders at the same level of service that is provided to resident students.



- B. If the school district decides to transport a nonresident student within the student's resident district, the school district will notify the student's resident district of its decision, in writing, prior to providing transportation.
- C. When divorced or legally separated parents or parents residing separately reside in different school districts and share physical custody of a student, the parents shall be responsible for the transportation of the student to the border of the school district during those times when the student is residing with the parent in the nonresident school district.
- D. The school district may provide transportation to allow a student who attends a high-need English language learner program and who resides within the transportation attendance area of the program to continue in the program until the student completes the highest grade level offered by the program.

## **VI. TRANSPORTATION OF RESIDENT STUDENTS TO NON DISTRICT SCHOOLS**

- A. In general, the school district shall not provide transportation between a resident student's home and the border of a nonresident district where the student attends school under the Enrollment Options Program. A parent may be reimbursed by the nonresident district for the costs of transportation from the pupil's residence to the border of the nonresident district if the student is from a family whose income is at or below the poverty level, as determined by the federal government. The reimbursement may not exceed the pupil's actual cost of transportation or 15 cents per mile traveled, whichever is less. Reimbursement may not be paid for more than 250 miles per week. (~~Minn. Stat. §~~Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.03, subdivision ~~Subd.~~ 8).
- B. Resident students shall be eligible for transportation to and from a nonresident school district at the expense of the school district, if in the discretion of the school district, inadequate room, distance to school, unfavorable road conditions, or other facts or conditions make attendance in the resident student's own district unreasonably difficult or impracticable. The school district, in its discretion, may also provide for transportation of resident students to schools in other districts for grades and departments not maintained in the district, including high school, for the whole or a part of the year or for resident students who attend school in a building rented or leased by the school district in an adjacent district.
- C. In general, the school district is not responsible for transportation for any resident student attending school in an adjoining state under a reciprocity agreement but may provide such transportation services at its discretion.

**VII. SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS/STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY/  
STUDENTS WITH TEMPORARY DISABILITIES**

- A. Upon a request of a parent or guardian, the board must provide necessary transportation, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.92, subdivision 1(b)(4), for a resident child with a disability not yet enrolled in kindergarten for the provision of special instruction and services. Special instruction and services for a child with a disability not yet enrolled in kindergarten include an individualized education program (IEP) team placement in an early childhood program when that placement is necessary to address the child's level of functioning and needs.
- B. Resident students with a disability whose disabling conditions are such that the student cannot be safely transported on the regular school bus and/or school bus route and/or when the student is transported on a special route for the purpose of attending an approved special education program shall be entitled to special transportation at the expense of the school district or the day training and habilitation program attended by the student. The school district shall determine the type of vehicle used to transport students with a disability on the basis of the disabling condition and applicable laws. This provision shall not be applicable to parents who transport their own child under a contract with the school district.
- C. Resident students with a disability who are boarded and lodged at Minnesota state academies for educational purposes, but who also are enrolled in a public school within the school district, shall be provided transportation, by the school district to and from said board and lodging facilities, at the expense of the school district.
- D. If a resident student with a disability attends a public school located in a contiguous school district and the school district of attendance does not provide special instruction and services, the school district shall provide necessary transportation for the student between the school district boundary and the educational facility where special instruction and services are provided within the school district. The school district may provide necessary transportation of the student between its boundary and the school attended in the contiguous district, but shall not pay the cost of transportation provided outside the school district boundary.
- E. When a student with a disability or a student with a short-term or temporary disability is temporarily placed for care and treatment in a day program located in another school district and the student continues to live within the school district during the care and treatment, the school district shall provide the transportation, at the expense of the school district, to that student. The school district may establish reasonable restrictions on transportation, except if a Minnesota court or agency orders the child placed at a day care and treatment program and the school

district receives a copy of the order, then the school district must provide transportation to and from the program unless the court or agency orders otherwise. Transportation shall only be provided by the school district during regular operating hours of the school district.

- F. When a nonresident student with a disability or a student with a short-term or temporary disability is temporarily placed in a residential program within the school district, including correctional facilities operated on a fee-for-service basis and state institutions, for care and treatment, the school district shall provide the necessary transportation at the expense of the school district. Where a joint powers entity enters into a contract with a privately owned and operated residential facility for the provision of education programs for special education students, the joint powers entity shall provide the necessary transportation.
- G. Each driver and aide assigned to a vehicle transporting students with a disability will be provided with appropriate training for the students in their care, will assist students with their safe ingress and egress from the bus, will ensure the proper use of protective safety devices, and will be provided with access to emergency health care information as required by law.
- H. Any parent of a student with a disability who believes that the transportation services provided for that child are not in compliance with the applicable law may utilize the alternative dispute resolution and due process procedures provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 125A.

## **VIII. HOMELESS STUDENTS**

- A. Homeless students shall be provided with transportation services comparable to other students in the school district.
- B. Upon request by the student's parent, guardian, or homeless education liaison, the school district shall provide transportation for a homeless student as follows:
  - 1. A resident student who becomes homeless and is residing in a public or private shelter location or has other non-shelter living arrangements within the school district shall be provided transportation to and from the student's school of origin and the shelter or other non-shelter location on the same basis as transportation services are provided to other students in the school district.
  - 2. A resident student who becomes homeless and is residing in a public or private shelter location or has other non-shelter living arrangements outside of the school district shall be provided transportation to and from the student's school of origin and the shelter or other non-shelter location on the same basis as transportation services are provided to other students

in the school district, unless the school district and the school district in which the student is temporarily placed agree that the school district in which the student is temporarily placed shall provide transportation.

3. If a nonresident student is homeless and is residing in a public or private homeless shelter or has other non-shelter living arrangements within the school district, the school district may provide transportation services between the shelter or non-shelter location and the student's school of origin outside of the school district upon agreement with the school district in which the school of origin is located.
4. A homeless nonresident student enrolled under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.08, subdivision 2a, must be provided transportation from the student's district of residence to and from the school of enrollment.

#### **IX. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES**

Transportation shall be provided on all regularly scheduled school days or make-up days. Transportation will not be provided during the summer school break. Transportation may be provided for summer instructional programs for students with a disability or in conjunction with a learning year program. Transportation between home and school may also be provided, at the discretion of the school district, on staff development days.

#### **X. MANNER OF TRANSPORTATION**

The scheduling of routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, the determination of fees, and any other matter relating thereto shall be within the sole discretion, control and management of the education district board. The education district may, in its discretion, provide room and board, in lieu of transportation, to a student who may be more economically and conveniently provided for by that means. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.88, Subd. 1)

#### **XI. RESTRICTIONS**

Transportation by the education district is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student. A student's eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for a violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or violation of any other law governing student conduct on a school bus pursuant to the education district's discipline policy. Revocation of a student's bus riding privilege is not an exclusion, expulsion, or suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Revocation procedures for a student who is an individual with a disability under 20 U.S.C. § 1415 (Individuals with Disabilities Act), 29 U.S.C. § 794 (the Rehabilitation Act), and 42 U.S.C. § 12132, (Americans with Disabilities Act) are governed by these provisions.

## **XII. FEES**

- A. In its discretion, the education district may charge fees for transportation of students to and from extracurricular activities conducted at locations other than school, where attendance is optional. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.36, Subd. 1(10))
- B. The education district may charge fees for transportation of students to and from school when authorized by law. If the education district charges fees for transportation of students to and from school, guidelines shall be established for that transportation to ensure that no student is denied transportation solely because of inability to pay. The education district also may waive fees for transportation if the student's parent is serving in, or within the past year has served in, active military service as defined in Minn. Stat. § 190.05. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.36, Subds. 1(11) and 6)
- C. The education district may charge reasonable fees for transportation of students to and from post-secondary institutions for students enrolled under the post-secondary enrollment options program. Families who qualify for mileage reimbursement may use their state mileage reimbursement to pay this fee. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.36, Subd. 1(13))
- D. Where, in its discretion, the education district provides transportation to and from an instructional community-based employment station that is part of an approved occupational experience vocational program, the education district may require the payment of reasonable fees for transportation from students who receive remuneration for their participation in these programs. (Minn. Stat. § 123B.36, Subd. 3)

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.59 (Bus Transportation is a Privilege Not a Right)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.41 (Educational Aids for Nonpublic School Children; Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts, Transportation)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.04 (Enrollment Options Programs in Border States)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.041 (Reciprocity with Adjoining States)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Board's Approval to Enroll in Nonresident District)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 125A (Children With a Disability)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.02 (Children With a Disability, Defined)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.12 (Attendance in Another District)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.15 (Placement in Another District; Responsibility)

Minn. Stat. § 125A.51 (Placement of Children Without Disabilities; Education and Transportation)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.515 (Placement of Students; Approval of Education Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.65 (Attendance at Academies for the Deaf and Blind)  
Minn. Stat. § 126C.01 (General Education Revenue - Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 127A.47 (Payments to Resident and Nonresident Districts)  
Minn. Stat. § 190.05 (Definitions)  
Minn. Rules Part 7470.1600 (Transporting Pupils with Disability)  
Minn. Rules Part 7470.1700 (Drivers and Aides for Pupils with Disabilities)  
20 U.S.C. § 1415 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000d (Prohibition Against Exclusion from Participation in, Denial of Benefits of, and Discrimination under Federally Assisted Programs on Ground of Race, Color, or National Origin)  
42 U.S.C. § 11431 *et seq.* (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001)  
42 U.S.C. § 12132 *et seq.* (Americans With Disabilities Act)

***Cross References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 708 (Transportation of Nonpublic School Students)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 710 (Extracurricular Transportation)

## **708 TRANSPORTATION OF NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

***[Note: The obligations stated in this policy are largely governed by statute. An education district may choose to add obligations to the model policy.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to address transportation rights of nonpublic school students and to provide equality of treatment in transporting such students pursuant to law.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The policy of the education district is to recognize the rights of nonpublic school students and to provide equal transportation to those students as required by law.

### **III. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. The education district shall provide equal transportation within the district for all students to any school when transportation is deemed necessary by the education district because of distance or traffic conditions in like manner and form as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 123B.88 and 123B.92 when applicable.
- B. Upon the request of a parent or guardian, the education district must provide school bus transportation to the education district boundary for students residing in the education district at least the same distance from a nonpublic school actually attended in another education district as public school students are transported in the transporting education district. Such transportation must be provided whether or not there is another nonpublic school within the transporting education district, if the transportation is to schools maintaining grades or departments not maintained in the education district or if the attendance of such students at school can more safely, economically, or conveniently be provided for by such means.
- C. The education district may provide school bus transportation to a nonpublic school in another education district for students residing in the education district and attending that school, whether there is or is not another nonpublic school within the transporting education district, if the transportation is to schools maintaining grades or departments not maintained in the education district or if the attendance of such students at school can more safely, economically, or conveniently be provided for by such means. If the education district transports students to a nonpublic school located in another education district, the nonpublic school ~~shall~~ must pay the cost of such transportation provided outside the education district boundaries.
- D. The education district must provide the necessary transportation within education district boundaries between the nonpublic school and a public school or neutral site for nonpublic education students who are provided pupil support services if the education district elects to provide pupil support services at a site other than a nonpublic school.
- E. When transportation is provided, the scheduling of routes, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of students, and any other matter relating thereto shall be within the sole discretion, control, and management of the education district. A nonpublic or charter school student transported by the education district shall comply with education district student bus conduct and student bus discipline policies.

- F. The education district board and a nonpublic school may mutually agree to a written plan for the board to provide nonpublic pupil transportation to nonpublic school students. The education district must report the number of nonpublic school students transported and the nonpublic pupil transportation expenditures incurred in the form and manner specified by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.
- G. If the education district board provides pupil transportation through the education district's employees, the education district board may transport nonpublic school students according to the plan and retain the nonpublic pupil transportation aid attributable to that plan. A nonpublic school may make a payment to the education district to cover additional transportation services agreed to in the written plan for nonpublic pupil transportation services not required under Minnesota Statutes, sections 123B.84 to 123B.87.
- H. A education district board that contracts for pupil transportation services may enter into a contractual arrangement with a school bus contractor according to the written plan adopted by the education district board and the nonpublic school to transport nonpublic school students and retain the nonpublic pupil transportation aid attributable to that plan for the purposes of paying the school bus contractor. A nonpublic school may make a payment to the education district to cover additional transportation services agreed to in the written plan for nonpublic pupil transportation services included in the contract that are not required under Minnesota Statutes, sections 123B.84 to 123B.87.
- I. Additional transportation to and from a nonpublic school may be provided at the expense of the education district when such services are provided in the discretion of the education district.

#### **IV. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

- A. If a resident student with a disability attends a nonpublic school located within the education district, the education district must provide necessary transportation for the student within the education district between the nonpublic school and the educational facility where special instruction and services are provided on a shared-time basis. If a resident student with a disability attends a nonpublic school located in another education district and if no agreement exists for the provision of special instruction and services on a shared time basis to that student by the education district of attendance and where the special instruction and services are provided within the education district, the education district ~~shall~~ **must** provide necessary transportation for that student between the education district boundary and the educational facility. The education district may provide necessary transportation for that student between its boundary and the nonpublic school attended, but the nonpublic school ~~shall~~ **must** pay the cost of transportation provided outside the education district boundary. Education districts may make agreements for who provides transportation. Parties serving students on a shared time basis have access to a due process hearing system as provided by law.
- B. When the disabling conditions of a student with a disability are such that the student cannot be safely transported on the regular school bus and/or school bus route and/or when the student is transported on a special route for the purpose of attending an approved special education program, the student shall be entitled to special transportation at the expense of the education district or the day training and habilitation program attended by the student. The education district shall determine the type of vehicle used to transport students with a disability on the basis of the disabling conditions and applicable laws. This section shall not be applicable to parents who transport their own child under a contract with the education district.
- C. Each driver and aide assigned to a vehicle transporting students with a disability must (1) be instructed in basic first aid and procedures for the students under their care:



(2) within one month after the effective date of assignment, participate in a program of in-service training on the proper methods of dealing with the specific needs and problems of students with disabilities; (3) assist students with disabilities on and off the bus when necessary for their safe ingress and egress from the bus; and (4) ensure that proper safety devices are in use and fastened properly.

- D. Each driver and aide assigned to a vehicle transporting students with a disability shall have available to them the following information in hard copy or immediately accessible through a two-way communication system: (1) the student's name and address; (2) the nature of the student's disabilities; (3) emergency health care information; and (4) the names and telephone numbers of the student's physician, parents, guardians, or custodians, and some person other than the student's parents or custodians who can be contacted in case of an emergency.
- E. Any parent of a student with a disability who believes that the transportation services provided for that child are not in compliance with the applicable law may utilize the due process procedures provided for in Minnesota Statutes chapter 125A.

## V. APPLICATION OF GENERAL POLICY

The provisions of the education district's policy on transportation of public school students [*Model Policy 707*] shall apply to the transportation of nonpublic school students except as specifically provided herein.

### **Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. § 123B.44 (Provision of Pupil Support Services)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.84 (Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.86 (Equal Treatment)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts, Transportation)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.91, Subd. 1a (School District Bus Safety Requirements)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.92 (Transportation Aid Entitlement)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 125A (Special Education and Special Programs)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.18 (Special Instruction; Nonpublic Schools)  
Minn. Rules Part 7470.1600 (Transporting Pupils with Disability)  
Minn. Rules Part 7470.1700 (Drivers and Aides for Pupils with Disability)  
*Americans United, Inc. as Protestants and Other Am. United for Separation of Church and State, et al. v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 622, et al.*, 288 Minn. 1996, 179 N.W.2d 146 (Minn. 1970)  
*Eldredge v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 625*, 422 N.W.2d 319 (Minn. Ct. App. 1988)  
*Healy v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 625*, 962 F.2d 1304 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1992)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 166a-7 (June 3, 1983)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 166a-7 (Sept. 14, 1981)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 166a-7 (July 15, 1976)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 166a-7 (July 17, 1970)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 166a-7 (Oct. 3, 1969)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 166a-7 (Sept. 12, 1969)

### **Cross References:**

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 707 (Transportation of Public School Students)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)

## **709 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY POLICY**

***[Note: Education districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for students and to educate students on safety issues and the responsibilities of school bus ridership.

### **II. PLAN FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING**

#### **A. School Bus Safety Week**

The education district may designate a school bus safety week. The National School Bus Safety Week is the third week in October.

#### **B. Student School Bus Safety Training**

1. The education district shall provide students enrolled in grades kindergarten (K) through 10 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:
  - a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
  - b. education district policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
  - c. appropriate conduct while on the bus;
  - d. the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
  - e. procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
  - f. procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
  - g. school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.
2. All students in grades K through 6 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training by the end of the third week of school. All students in grades 7 through 10 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training or receive bus safety instruction materials by the end of the sixth week of school, if they have not previously received school bus training. Students in grades K through 10 who enroll in a school after the second week of school, are transported by school bus, and have not received training in their previous education districts shall undergo school bus safety training or receive bus safety instructional materials within 4 weeks of their first day of attendance.
3. The education district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must provide students enrolled in grades K through 3 school bus safety training twice during the school year.
4. Students taking driver's training instructional classes must receive training in the laws and proper procedures for operating a motor vehicle in the vicinity of a

school bus as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 169.446, subdivision 2.

5. The education district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must conduct a school bus evacuation drill at least once during the school year.
6. The education district will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.
7. The education district may provide kindergarten students with school bus safety training before the first day of school.
8. The education district shall adopt and make available for public review a curriculum for transportation safety education.
9. Nonpublic school students transported by the education district will receive school bus safety training by their nonpublic school. The nonpublic schools may use the education district's school transportation safety education curriculum. Upon request by the education district executive district, the nonpublic school must certify to the education district's school transportation safety director that all students enrolled in grades K through 10 have received the appropriate training.

C. Active Transportation Safety Training

1. Training required

- a. The education district must provide public school pupils enrolled in kindergarten through grade 3 with age-appropriate active transportation safety training. At a minimum, the training must include pedestrian safety, including crossing roads.
- b. The education district must provide pupils enrolled in grades 4 through 8 with age-appropriate active transportation safety training. At a minimum, the training must include:
  - (1) pedestrian safety, including crossing roads safely using the searching left, right, left for vehicles in traffic technique; ~~and~~
  - (2) bicycle safety, including relevant traffic laws, use and proper fit of protective headgear, bicycle parts and safety features, and safe biking techniques ~~;~~ and
  - (3) electric-assisted bicycle safety, including that a person under the age of 15 is not allowed to operate an electric-assisted bicycle.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision.]

2. Deadlines.

- a. Students under subdivision 1, paragraph (a), who are enrolled during the first or second week of school and have not previously received active transportation safety training specified in that paragraph must receive the safety training by the end of the third week of school.
- b. Students under subdivision 1, paragraph (b), who are enrolled during the first or second week of school and have not previously received active transportation safety training specified in that paragraph must receive the safety training by the end of the sixth week of school.

- c. Students under subdivision 1, paragraph (a) or (b), who enroll in a school after the second week of school and have not received the appropriate active transportation safety training in their previous education district must undergo the training or receive active transportation safety instructional materials within four weeks of the first day of attendance.
  - d. The education district and a nonpublic school may provide kindergarten pupils with active transportation safety training before the first day of school.
3. Instruction
- a. The education district may provide active transportation safety training through distance learning.
  - b. The district and a nonpublic school must make reasonable accommodations for the active transportation safety training of pupils known to speak English as a second language and pupils with disabilities.

### **III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR**

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The education district's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses, including nonpublic and charter school students.
- B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the education district under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the education district's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.
  - 1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules. The education district school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the education district's discipline procedures are to be followed. In most circumstances, consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the education district's Transportation Office/School Office.
  - 2. Rules at the Bus Stop
    - a. Get to your bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
    - b. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
    - c. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
    - d. Use appropriate language.
    - e. Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
    - f. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
    - g. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
    - h. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.

- i. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
  - j. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
3. Rules on the Bus
- a. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
  - b. Sit in your seat facing forward.
  - c. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
  - d. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
  - e. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
  - f. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
  - g. Do not throw any object.
  - h. No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
  - i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
  - j. Do not damage the bus.

4. Consequences

- a. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes. Decisions regarding a student’s ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the education district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

(1) Elementary (K-6)

- 1st offense – warning
- 2nd offense – 3 school-day suspension from riding the bus
- 3rd offense – 5 school-day suspension from riding the bus
- 4th offense – 10 school-day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with parent
- Further offenses – individually considered. Students may be suspended for longer periods of time, including the remainder of the school year.

(2) Secondary (7-12)

- 1st offense – warning
- 2nd offense – 5 school-day suspension from riding the bus
- 3rd offense – 10 school-day suspension from riding the bus
- 4th offense – 20 school-day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with parent
- 5th offense – suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year

Note: When any student goes 60 transportation days without a report, the student’s consequences may start over at the first offense.

(3) Other Discipline

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school also may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

(4) Records

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that are reasonably believed to cause an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property shall be provided by the education district to local law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

(5) Vandalism/Bus Damage

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within 2 weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.

(6) Notice

School bus and bus stop rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually and copies of these rules will be made available to students. School bus rules are to be posted on each school bus.

(7) Criminal Conduct

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, drug possession, or vandalism), the appropriate education district personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

#### **IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT**

A. Parent and Guardian Notification

The school district school bus and bus stop rules will be provided to each family. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.

B. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety

Parents/Guardians are responsible to:

1. Become familiar with education district rules, policies, regulations, and the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
3. Communicate safety concerns to their education district administrators;

4. Monitor bus stops, if possible;
5. Have their children to the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives;
6. Have their children properly dressed for the weather; and
7. Have a plan in case the bus is late.

**V. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. School bus drivers shall have a valid Class A, B, or C Minnesota driver's license with a school bus endorsement. A person possessing a valid driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may drive a type III vehicle set forth in Sections VII.B. and VII.C., below. Drivers with a valid Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a "type A-I" school bus as set forth in Section VII.D., below.
- B. The education district shall conduct mandatory drug and alcohol testing of all school district bus drivers and bus driver applicants in accordance with state and federal law and education district policy.
- C. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is convicted of a criminal offense, a serious traffic violation, or of violating any other state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, in any type of motor vehicle in a state or jurisdiction other than Minnesota, shall notify the Minnesota Division of Driver and Vehicle Services (Division) of the conviction within 30 days of the conviction. For purposes of this paragraph, a "serious traffic violation" means a conviction of any of the following offenses:
  1. excessive speeding, involving any single offense for any speed of 15 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit;
  2. reckless driving;
  3. improper or erratic traffic lane changes;
  4. following the vehicle ahead too closely;
  5. a violation of state or local law, relating to motor vehicle traffic control, arising in connection with a fatal accident;
  6. driving a commercial vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver's license or without having a commercial driver's license in the driver's possession;
  7. driving a commercial vehicle without the proper class of commercial driver's license and/or endorsements for the specific vehicle group being operated or for the passengers or type of cargo being transported;
  8. a violation of a state or local law prohibiting texting while driving a commercial vehicle; and
  9. a violation of a state or local law prohibiting the use of a hand-held mobile telephone while driving a commercial vehicle.
- D. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is convicted of violating, in any type of motor vehicle, a Minnesota state or local

law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, shall notify the person's employer of the conviction within 30 days of conviction. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment A accompanying this policy.

- E. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus or type III vehicle, who has a Minnesota commercial driver's license suspended, revoked, or cancelled by the state of Minnesota or any other state or jurisdiction and who loses the right to operate a commercial vehicle for any period or who is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for any period shall notify the person's employer of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. Such notification shall be made before the end of the business day following the day the employee received notice of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment B accompanying this policy.
- F. A person who operates a type III vehicle and who sustains a conviction as described in Section VII.C.1.g. (i.e., driving while impaired offenses), VII.C.1.h. (i.e., felony, controlled substance, criminal sexual conduct offenses, or offenses for surreptitious observation, indecent exposure, use of minor in a sexual performance, or possession of child pornography or display of pornography to a minor), or VII.C.1.i. (multiple moving violations) while employed by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, shall report the conviction to the person's employer within 10 days of the date of the conviction. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment C accompanying this policy.

## **VI. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING**

### **A. Training**

1. All new school bus drivers shall be provided with pre-service training, including in-vehicle (actual driving) instruction, before transporting students and shall meet the competency testing specified in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. All school bus drivers shall receive in-service training annually. For purposes of this section, "annually" means at least once every 380 days from the initial or previous evaluation and at least once every 380 days from the initial or previous license verification. The education district shall retain on file an annual individual school bus driver "evaluation certification" form for each education district driver as contained in the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.

***[Note: The Model School Bus Driver Training Manual is available online through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Patrol web page.]***

2. All bus drivers operating a type III vehicle will be provided with annual training and certification as set forth in Section VII.C.1.b., below, by either the education district or the entity from whom such services are contracted by the education district.

### **B. Evaluation**

School bus drivers with a Class D license will be evaluated annually and all other bus drivers will be assessed periodically for the following competencies:

1. Safely operate the type of school bus the driver will be driving;
2. Understand student behavior, including issues relating to students



with disabilities;

3. Ensure orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately;
4. Know and understand relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies;
5. Handle emergency situations; and
6. Safely load and unload students.

The evaluation must include completion of an individual "school bus driver evaluation form" (road test evaluation) as contained in the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.

***[Note: The education district may use alternative assessments rather than those set forth in the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual for bus driver training competencies with the approval of the Commissioner of Public Safety. A driver also may receive at least 8 hours of school bus in-service training in any year as an alternative to being assessed for bus driver competencies after the initial year of being assessed for bus driver competencies.]***

## **VII. OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES**

### **A. General Operating Rules**

1. School buses shall be operated in accordance with state traffic and school bus safety laws and the procedures contained in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.

***[Note: The Model School Bus Driver Training Manual is available online through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Patrol web page.]***

2. Only students assigned to the school bus by the education district shall be transported. The number of students or other authorized passengers transported in a school bus shall not be more than the legal capacity for the bus. No person shall be allowed to stand when the bus is in motion.
3. The parent/guardian may designate, pursuant to education district policy, a day care facility, respite care facility, the residence of a relative, or the residence of a person chosen by the parent or guardian as the address of the student for transportation purposes. The address must be in the attendance area of the assigned school and meet all other eligibility requirements.
4. Bus drivers must minimize, to the extent practical, the idling of school bus engines and exposure of children to diesel exhaust fumes.
5. To the extent practical, the education district will designate school bus loading/unloading zones at a sufficient distance from school air-intake systems to avoid diesel fumes from being drawn into the systems.

***[Note: An education district is not required to comply with Section VII.A.5. if the education district board determines that alternative locations block traffic, impair student safety, or are not cost effective.]***

6. A bus driver may not operate a school bus while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular phone for personal reasons, whether hand-held or hands free, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. For purposes of this paragraph, "school bus" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes,

section 169.011, subdivision 71. In addition, "school bus" also includes type III vehicles when driven by employees or agents of the education district. "Cellular phone" means a cellular, analog, wireless, or digital telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone or text messages without an access line for service.

B. Type III Vehicles

1. Type III vehicles are restricted to passenger cars, station wagons, vans, and buses having a maximum manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 10 or fewer people including the driver and a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. A van or bus converted to a seating capacity of 10 or fewer and placed in service on or after August 1, 1999, must have been originally manufactured to comply with the passenger safety standards.
2. Type III vehicles must be painted a color other than national school bus yellow.
3. Type III vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.
4. Vehicles model year 2007 or older must not be used as type III vehicles to transport school children, except those vehicles that are manufactured to meet the structural requirements of federal motor vehicle safety standard 222, Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, part 571.
5. If a type III vehicle is education district owned, the education district name will be clearly marked on the side of the vehicle. The type III vehicle must not have the words "school bus" in any location on the exterior of the vehicle or in any interior location visible to a motorist.
6. A "type III vehicle" must not be outwardly equipped and identified as a type A, B, C, or D bus.
7. Eight-lamp warning systems and stop arms must not be installed or used on type III vehicles.
8. Type III vehicles must be equipped with mirrors as required by law.
9. Any type III vehicle may not stop traffic and may not load or unload before making a complete stop and disengaging gears by shifting into neutral or park. Any type III vehicle used to transport students must not load or unload so that a student has to cross the road, except where not possible or impractical, then the driver or assistant must escort a student across the road. If the driver escorts the student across the road, then the motor must be stopped, the ignition key removed, the brakes set, and the vehicle otherwise rendered immobile.
10. Any type III vehicle used to transport students must carry emergency equipment including:
  - a. Fire extinguisher. A minimum of one 10BC rated dry chemical type fire extinguisher is required. The extinguisher must be mounted in a bracket and must be located in the driver's compartment and be readily accessible to the driver and passengers. A pressure indicator is required and must be easily read without removing the extinguisher from its mounted position.

- b. First aid kit and body fluids cleanup kit. A minimum of a 10-unit first aid kit and a body fluids cleanup kit is required. They must be contained in removable, moisture- and dust-proof containers mounted in an accessible place within the driver's compartment and must be marked to indicate their identity and location.
    - c. Passenger cars and station wagons may carry a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, and warning triangles in the trunk or trunk area of the vehicle if a label in the driver and front passenger area clearly indicates the location of these items.
  - 11. Students will not be regularly transported in private vehicles that are not state inspected as type III vehicles. Only emergency, unscheduled transportation may be conducted in vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer without meeting the requirements for a type III vehicle. Also, parents may use a private vehicle to transport their own children under a contract with the district. The education district has no system of inspection for private vehicles.
  - 12. All drivers of type III vehicles will be licensed drivers and will be familiar with the use of required emergency equipment. The education district will not knowingly allow a person to operate a type III vehicle if the person has been convicted of an offense that disqualifies the person from operating a school bus.
  - 13. Type III vehicles will be equipped with child passenger restraints, and child passenger restraints will be utilized to the extent required by law.
- C. Type III Vehicle Driven by Employees with a Driver's License Without a School Bus Endorsement
  - 1. The holder of a Class A, B, C, or D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type III vehicle, described above, under the following conditions:
    - a. The operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, which may include the education district.
    - b. The operator's employer, which may include the education district, has adopted and implemented a policy that provides for annual training and certification of the operator in:
      - (1) safe operation of a type III vehicle;
      - (2) understanding student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;
      - (3) encouraging orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately;
      - (4) knowing and understanding relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies;
      - (5) handling emergency situations;
      - (6) proper use of seat belts and child safety restraints;
      - (7) performance of pretrip vehicle inspections;

- (8) safe loading and unloading of students, including, but not limited to:
    - (a) utilizing a safe location for loading and unloading students at the curb, on the nontraffic side of the roadway, or at off-street loading areas, driveways, yards, and other areas to enable the student to avoid hazardous conditions;
    - (b) refraining from loading and unloading students in a vehicular traffic lane, on the shoulder, in a designated turn lane, or a lane adjacent to a designated turn lane;
    - (c) avoiding a loading or unloading location that would require a student to cross a road, or ensuring that the driver or an aide personally escort the student across the road if it is not reasonably feasible to avoid such a location;
    - (d) placing the type III vehicle in "park" during loading and unloading;
    - (e) escorting a student across the road under clause (c) only after the motor is stopped, the ignition key is removed, the brakes are set, and the vehicle is otherwise rendered immobile; and
  - (9) compliance with paragraph V.F. concerning reporting convictions to the employer within 10 days of the date of conviction.
- c. A background check or background investigation of the operator has been conducted that meets the requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.18, subdivision 8, or Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.03 for education district employees; Minnesota Statutes, section 144.057 or Minnesota Statutes, chapter 245C for day care employees; or Minnesota Statutes, section 171.321, subdivision 3, for all other persons operating a type III vehicle under this section.
  - d. Operators shall submit to a physical examination as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 171.321, subdivision 2.
  - e. The operator's employer requires pre-employment drug testing of applicants for operator positions. Current operators must comply with the employer's policy under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.951, subdivisions 2, 4, and 5. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the operator's employer may use a breathalyzer or similar device to fulfill random alcohol testing requirements.
  - f. The operator's driver's license is verified annually by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the type III vehicle as required by Minnesota Statutes section 171.321, subdivision 5.
  - g. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, 609.02, of violating Minnesota Statutes, section 169A.25, 169A.26,

169A.27 (driving while impaired offenses), or 169A.31 (alcohol-related school bus driver offenses), or whose driver's license is revoked under Minnesota Statutes, sections 169A.50 to 169A.53 of the implied consent law, or who is convicted of violating or whose driver's license is revoked under a similar statute or ordinance of another state, is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for 5 years from the date of conviction.

- h. A person who has ever been convicted of a disqualifying offense as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 171.3215, subdivision 1(c), (i.e., felony, controlled substance, criminal sexual conduct offenses, or offenses for surreptitious observation, indecent exposure, use of minor in a sexual performance, or possession of child pornography or display of pornography to a minor) may not operate a type III vehicle.
  - i. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 609.02, of a moving offense in violation of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 169 within 3 years of the first of 3 other moving offenses is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for 1 year from the date of the last conviction.
  - j. Students riding the type III vehicle must have training required under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.90, Subd. 2 (See Section II.B., above).
  - k. Documentation of meeting the requirements listed in this section must be maintained under a separate file at the business location for each type III vehicle operator. The education district or any other entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the type III vehicle operating under this section is responsible for maintaining these files for inspection.
- 2. The Type III vehicle must bear a current certificate of inspection issued under Minnesota Statutes, section 169.451.
  - 3. An employee of the education district who is not employed for the sole purpose of operating a type III vehicle may, in the discretion of the education district, be exempt from paragraphs VII.C.1.d. (physical examination) and VII.C.1.e. (drug testing), above.
- D. Type A-I "Activity" Buses Driven by Employees with a Driver's License Without a School Bus Endorsement
- 1. The holder of a Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type A-I school bus or a Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB) under the following conditions:
    - a. The operator is an employee of the education district or an independent contractor with whom the education district contracts for the school bus and is not solely hired to provide transportation services under this paragraph.
    - b. The operator drives the school bus only from points of origin to points of destination, not including home-to-school trips to pick up or drop off students.
    - c. The operator is prohibited from using the 8-light system if the vehicle is so equipped.
    - f. The operator has submitted to a background check and physical

examination as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 171.321, subdivision 2.

- g. The operator has a valid driver's license and has not sustained a conviction of a disqualifying offense as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 171.02, subdivisions 2a(h) - 2a(j).
  - h. The operator has been trained in the proper use of child safety restraints as set forth in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Age Children in School Buses," if child safety restraints are used by passengers, in addition to the training required in Section VI., above.
  - i. The bus has a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,500 pounds or less and is designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver.
- 2. The education district shall maintain annual certification of the requirements listed in this section for each Class D license operator.
  - 3. A school bus operated under this section must bear a current certificate of inspection.
  - 4. The word "School" on the front and rear of the bus must be covered by a sign that reads "Activities" when the bus is being operated under authority of this section.

#### **VIII. EDUCATION DISTRICT EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

- A. If possible, school bus drivers or their supervisors shall call "911" or the local emergency phone number in the event of a serious emergency.
- B. School bus drivers shall meet the emergency training requirements contained in Unit III "Crash & Emergency Preparedness" of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. This includes procedures in the event of a crash (accident).

***[Note: The Model School Bus Driver Training Manual is available online through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Patrol web page.]***

- C. School bus drivers and bus assistants for special education students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition shall be trained in basic first aid procedures, shall within one (1) month after the effective date of assignment participate in a program of in-service training on the proper methods for dealing with the specific needs and problems of students with disabilities, assist students with disabilities on and off the bus when necessary for their safe ingress and egress from the bus; and ensure that protective safety devices are in use and fastened properly.
- D. Emergency Health Information shall be maintained on the school bus for students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition. The information shall state:
  - 1. the student's name and address;
  - 2. the nature of the student's disabilities;
  - 3. emergency health care information; and
  - 4. the names and telephone numbers of the student's physician, parents,

guardians, or custodians, and some person other than the student's parents or custodians who can be contacted in case of an emergency.

#### **IX. EDUCATION DISTRICT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

A. All school vehicles shall be maintained in safe operating conditions through a systematic preventive maintenance and inspection program adopted or approved by the education district.

B. All education district vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.

C. A copy of the current daily pre-trip inspection report must be carried in the bus. Daily pre-trip inspections shall be maintained on file in accordance with the education district's record retention schedule. Prompt reports of defects to be immediately corrected will be submitted.

D. Daily post-trip inspections shall be performed to check for any children or lost items remaining on the bus and for vandalism.

#### **X. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DIRECTOR**

The education district board has designated an individual to serve as the education district's school transportation safety director. The school transportation safety director shall have day-to-day responsibility for student transportation safety, including transportation of nonpublic school children when provided by the education district. The school transportation safety director will assure that this policy is periodically reviewed to ensure that it conforms to law. The school transportation safety director shall certify annually to the education district board that each school bus driver meets the school bus driver training competencies required Minnesota Statutes, section 171.321, subdivision 4. The transportation safety director also shall annually verify or ensure that the private contractor utilized by the education district has verified the validity of the driver's license of each employee who regularly transports students for the education district in a type A, B, C, or D school bus, type III vehicle, or MFSAB with the National Driver Register or the Department of Public Safety. Upon request of the education district executive district or the executive district of the education district where nonpublic students are transported, the school transportation safety director also shall certify to the executive district that students have received school bus safety training in accordance with state law. The name, address and telephone number of the school transportation safety director are on file in the education district office. Any questions regarding student transportation or this policy may be addressed to the school transportation safety director.

#### **XI. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The education district board may establish a student transportation safety committee. The chair of the student transportation safety committee is the education district's school transportation safety director. The education district board shall appoint the other members of the student transportation safety committee. Membership may include parents, school bus drivers, representatives of school bus companies, local law enforcement officials, other education district staff, and representatives from other units of local government.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 122A.18, Subd. 8 (Board to Issue Licenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks; Individual Instruction or Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts; Transportation)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.885 (Diesel School Buses; Operation of Engine; Parking)  
 Minn. Stat. § 123B.90 (School Bus Safety Training)  
 Minn. Stat. § 123B.91 (School District Bus Safety Responsibilities)  
 Minn. Stat. § 123B.935 (Active Transportation Safety Training)  
 Minn. Stat. § 144.057 (Background Studies on Licensees and Other Personnel)  
 Minn. Stat. Ch. 169 (Traffic Regulations)  
 Minn. Stat. § 169.011, Subds. 15, 16, and 71 (Definitions)  
 Minn. Stat. § 169.02 (Scope)  
 Minn. Stat. § 169.443 (Safety of School Children; Bus Driver's Duties)  
 Minn. Stat. § 169.446, Subd. 2 (Safety of School Children; Training and Education Rules)  
 Minn. Stat. § 169.451 (Inspecting School and Head Start Buses; Rules; Misdemeanor)  
 Minn. Stat. § 169.454 (Type III Vehicle Standards)  
 Minn. Stat. § 169.4582 (Reportable Offense on School Buses) Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.25-169A.27 (Driving While Impaired)  
 Minn. Stat. § 169A.31 (Alcohol-Related School Bus or Head Start Bus Driving)  
 Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.50-169A.53 (Implied Consent Law)  
 Minn. Stat. § 171.02, Subds. 2, 2a, and 2b (Licenses; Types, Endorsements, Restrictions)  
 Minn. Stat. § 171.168 (Notice of Violation by Commercial Driver)  
 Minn. Stat. § 171.169 (Notice of Commercial License Suspension)  
 Minn. Stat. § 171.321 (Qualifications of School Bus and Type III Vehicle Drivers)  
 Minn. Stat. § 171.3215, Subd. 1(c) (Canceling Bus Endorsement for Certain Offenses)  
 Minn. Stat. § 181.951 (Authorized Drug and Alcohol Testing)  
 Minn. Stat. Ch. 245C (Human Services Background Studies)  
 Minn. Stat. § 609.02 (Definitions)  
 Minn. Rules Parts 7470.1000-7470.1700 (School Bus Inspection)  
 49 C.F.R. Part 383 (Commercial Driver's License Standards; Requirements and Penalties)  
 49 C.F.R. § 383.31 (Notification of Convictions for Driver Violations)  
 49 C.F.R. § 383.33 (Notification of Driver's License Suspensions)  
 49 C.F.R. § 383.5 (Transportation Definitions)  
 49 C.F.R. § 383.51 (Disqualification of Drivers)  
 49 C.F.R. Part 571 (Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards)

**Cross References:**

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 707 (Transportation of Public Students)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 708 (Transportation of Nonpublic Students)  
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 710 (Extracurricular Transportation)



## **802 DISPOSITION OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL**

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

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the executive director to assist in timely disposition of obsolete equipment and material.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Effective use of education district building space, and consideration for safety of personnel, will at times require disposal of obsolete equipment and material.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Contract” means an agreement entered into by the education district for the sale of supplies, materials, or equipment.
- B. “Official newspaper” is a regular issue of a qualified legal newspaper.

### **IV. MANNER OF DISPOSITION**

#### **A. Authorization**

The executive director shall be authorized to dispose of obsolete equipment and materials by selling it at a fair price consistent with the procedures outlined in this policy. Any sale exceeding the minimum amount for which bids are required must first be specifically authorized by the education district board. The executive director shall be authorized to properly dispose of used books, materials, and equipment deemed to have little or no value.

#### **B. Contracts Over \$175,000**

1. If the value of the equipment or materials is estimated to exceed \$175,000, sealed bids shall be solicited by two weeks’ published notice in the official newspaper. This notice shall state the time and place of receiving bids and contain a brief description of the subject matter. Additional publication in the official newspaper or elsewhere may be made as the education district board shall deem necessary.
2. The sale shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder, be duly

executed in writing, and be otherwise conditioned as required by law.

3. A record shall be kept of all bids, with names of bidders and amounts of bids, and an indication of the successful bid. A bid containing an alteration or erasure of any price contained in the bid which is used in determining the highest responsible bid shall be rejected unless the alteration or erasure is corrected by being crossed out and the correction printed in ink or typewritten adjacent thereto and initialed in ink by the person signing the bid.
4. In the case of identical high bids from two or more bidders, the education district board may, at its discretion, utilize negotiated procurement methods with the tied high bidders so long as the price paid does not go below the high tied bid price. In the case where only a single bid is received, the education district board may, at its discretion, negotiate a mutually agreeable contract with the bidder so long as the price paid does not fall below the original bid. If no satisfactory bid is received, the board may readvertise.
5. All bids obtained shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after their receipt. Every contract made without compliance with the foregoing provisions shall be void.
6. Data submitted by a business to an education district in response to a request for bids are private until opened. Once opened, the name of the bidder and the dollar amount specified become public; all other data are private until completion of the selection process, meaning the education district has completed its evaluation and ranked the responses. After completion of the selection process, all data submitted by all bidders are public except trade secret data. If all responses are rejected prior to completion of the selection process, all data remain private, except the name of the bidder and the dollar amount specified which were made public at the bid opening for one year from the proposed opening date or until resolicitation results in completion of the selection process or until a determination is made to abandon the purchase, whichever occurs sooner, at which point the remaining data becomes public. Data created or maintained by the education district as part of the selection or evaluation process are protected as nonpublic data until completion of the selection or evaluation process. At that time, the data are public with the exception of trade secret data.

C. Contracts From \$25,000 to \$175,000

If the amount of the sale is estimated to exceed \$25,000 but not to exceed \$175,000, the contract may be made either upon sealed bids in the manner directed above or by direct negotiation, by obtaining two or more quotations for the purchase or sale when possible, and without advertising for bids or otherwise

complying with the requirements of competitive bidding notice. All quotations obtained shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after receipt.

D. Contracts \$25,000 or Less

If the amount of the sale is estimated to be \$25,000 or less, the contract may be made either upon quotation or in the open market, in the discretion of the education district board. The sale in the open market may be by auction. If the contract is made on quotation, it shall be based, so far as practicable, on at least two quotations which shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after receipt.

E. Electronic Sale of Surplus Supplies, Materials, and Equipment

Notwithstanding the other procedural requirements of this policy, the education district may contract to sell supplies, materials, and equipment which is surplus, obsolete, or unused through an electronic selling process in which purchasers compete to purchase the supplies, materials, or equipment at the highest purchase price in an open and interactive environment.

F. Notice of Quotation

Notice of procedures to receive quotations shall be given by publication or other means as appropriate to provide reasonable notice to the public.

G. Sales to Employees

No officer or employee of the education district shall sell or procure for sale or possess or control for sale to any other officer or employee of the education district any property or materials owned by the education district unless the property and materials are not needed for public purposes and are sold to an education district employee after reasonable public notice, at a public auction or by sealed response, if the employee is not directly involved in the auction or sale process. Reasonable notice shall include at least one week's published or posted notice. An education district employee may purchase no more than one motor vehicle from the education district at any one auction. This section shall not apply to the sale of property or materials acquired or produced by the education district for sale to the general public in the ordinary course of business. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an employee of the education district from selling or possessing for sale public property if the sale or possession for sale is in the ordinary course of business or the normal course of the employee's duties.

H. Exceptions for Surplus Education District Computers

1. A education district may bypass the requirements for competitive bidding and is not subject to any other laws relating to education district contracts if it is disposing of surplus education district computer and related

equipment, including a tablet device, by conveying the property and title to:

- a. another education district;
- b. the state department of corrections;
- c. the board of trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities;
- d. the family of a student residing in the district whose total family income meets the federal definition of poverty; or
- e. a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is registered with the attorney general's office for educational use.

2. If surplus education district computers are not disposed of as described in Paragraph 1, upon adoption of a written resolution of the education district board, when updating or replacing education district computers, including tablet devices, used primarily by students, the education district may sell or give used computers or tablets to qualifying students at the price specified in the written resolution. A student is eligible to apply to the education district board for a computer or tablet under this subdivision if the student is currently enrolled in the education district and intends to enroll in the education district in the year following the receipt of the computer or tablet. If more students apply for computers or tablets than are available, the education district must first qualify students whose families are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and then dispose of the remaining computers or tablets by lottery.

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 13.591 (Business Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 15.054 (Public Employees Not to Purchase Merchandise from Governmental Agencies; Exceptions; Penalty)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.29 (Sale of School Building at Auction)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.52 (Contracts)  
Minn. Stat. § 471.345 (Uniform Municipal Contracting Law)  
[Minn. Stat. § 471.85 \(Property Transfer; Public Corporations\)](#)  
Minn. Stat. § 645.11 (Published Notice)

***Cross References:*** MSBA School Law Bulletin "F" (School District Contract and Bidding Procedures)

## 806 CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

***[Note: The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (Commissioner) is required to maintain and make available to education district boards and charter schools a Model Crisis Management Policy. See Minnesota Statutes section 121A.035. Education district boards and charter schools must adopt a Crisis Management Policy to address potential crisis situations in their education districts or charter schools. Id. This Model Crisis Management Policy was originally the result of a collaborative effort among the Minnesota Department of Education, Division of Compliance and Assistance; the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and the Minnesota School Boards Association.]***

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Model Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for education district and building administrators, education district employees, students, education district board members, and community members to address a wide range of potential crisis situations in the education district. The step-by-step procedures suggested by this Policy will provide guidance to each school building in drafting crisis management plans to coordinate protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency or potential crisis situation. Each education district should develop tailored building-specific crisis management plans for each school building in the education district, and sections or procedures may be added or deleted in those crisis management plans based on building needs.

The education district will, to the extent possible, engage in ongoing emergency planning within the education district and with emergency responders and other relevant community organizations. The education district will ensure that relevant emergency responders in the community have access to their building-specific crisis management plans and will provide training to education district staff to enable them to act appropriately in the event of a crisis.

### II. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### A. The Policy and Plans

The education district's Crisis Management Policy has been created in consultation with local community response agencies and other appropriate individuals and groups that would likely be involved in the event of a school emergency. It is designed so that each building administrator can tailor a building-specific crisis management plan to meet that building's specific situation and needs.

The education district's administration and/or the administration of each building shall present tailored building-specific crisis management plans to the education district board for review and approval. The building-specific crisis management plans will include general crisis procedures and crisis-specific procedures. Upon approval by the education district board, such crisis management plans shall be an addendum to this Crisis Management Policy. This Policy and the plans will be maintained and updated on an annual basis.

#### B. Elements of the District Crisis Management Policy

1. General Crisis Procedures. The Crisis Management Policy includes general

crisis procedures for securing buildings, classroom evacuation, building evacuation, campus evacuation, and sheltering. The Policy designates the individual(s) who will determine when these actions will be taken. These district-wide procedures may be modified by building administrators when creating their building-specific crisis management plans. A communication system will be in place to enable the designated individual to be contacted at all times in the event of a potential crisis, setting forth the method to contact the designated individual, the provision of at least two designees when the contact person is unavailable, and the method to convey contact information to the appropriate staff persons. The alternative designees may include members of the emergency first responder response team. A secondary method of communication should be included in the plan for use when the primary method of communication is inoperable. Each building in the education district will have access to a copy of the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) to assist in the development of building-specific crisis management plans.

All general crisis procedures will address specific procedures for the safe evacuation of children and employees with special needs such as physical, sensory, motor, developmental, and mental health challenges.

***[Note: More specific information on planning for children with special needs can be found in the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) and United States Department of Education's document entitled, "Practical Information on Crisis Planning, a Guide for Schools and Communities." A website link is provided in the resource section of this Policy.]***

- a. Lock-Down Procedures. Lock-down procedures will be used in situations where harm may result to persons inside the school building, such as a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespass, disturbance, or when determined to be necessary by the building administrator or his or her designee. The building administrator or designee will announce the lock-down over the public address system or other designated system. Code words will not be used. Provisions for emergency evacuation will be maintained even in the event of a lock-down. Each building administrator will submit lock-down procedures for their building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

***[Note: Minnesota State law requires a minimum of five school lock-down drills each school year. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035.]***

- b. Evacuation Procedures. Evacuations of classrooms and buildings shall be implemented at the discretion of the building administrator or his or her designee. Each building's crisis management plan will include procedures for transporting students and staff a safe distance from harm to a designated safe area until released by the building administrator or designee. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency situation. The evacuation procedures should include specific procedures for children with special needs, including children with limited mobility (wheelchairs, braces, crutches, etc.), visual impairments, hearing impairments, and other sensory, developmental, or mental health needs. The evacuation procedures should also address transporting necessary medications for students that take medications during the school day.

***[Note: Minnesota State law requires a minimum of five school fire drills, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 299F.30,***

**and one school tornado drill each school year. See Minnesota Statutes section 121A.035.]**

- c. Sheltering Procedures. Sheltering provides refuge for students, staff, and visitors within the school building during an emergency. Shelters are safe areas that maximize the safety of inhabitants. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency. The building administrator or his or her designee will announce the need for sheltering over the public address system or other designated system. Each building administrator will submit sheltering procedures for his or her building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) has sample lock-down procedures, evacuation procedures, and sheltering procedures.]***

2. Crisis-Specific Procedures. The Crisis Management Policy includes crisis-specific procedures for crisis situations that may occur during the school day or at school-sponsored events and functions. These district-wide procedures are designed to enable building administrators to tailor response procedures when creating building-specific crisis management plans.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) includes crisis-specific procedures.]***

***[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted permissive language stating that a school board "may adopt the model cardiac emergency response plan provided by" the Commissioner (as of June 4, 2024, a response plan is not yet available)]***

3. School Emergency Response Teams

- a. Composition. The building administrator in each school building will select a school emergency response team that will be trained to respond to emergency situations. All school emergency response team members will receive on-going training to carry out the building's crisis management plans and will have knowledge of procedures, evacuation routes, and safe areas. For purposes of student safety and accountability, to the extent possible, school emergency response team members will not have direct responsibility for the supervision of students. Team members must be willing to be actively involved in the resolution of crises and be available to assist in any crisis situation as deemed necessary by the building administrator. Each building will maintain a current list of school emergency response team members which will be updated annually. The building administrator, and his or her alternative designees, will know the location of that list in the event of a school emergency. A copy of the list will be kept on file in the education district office, or in a secondary location in single building education districts.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) has a sample School Emergency Response Team list.]***

- b. Leaders. The building administrator or his or her designee will serve as the leader of the school emergency response team and will be the primary contact for emergency response officials. In the event the primary designee is unavailable, the designee list should include more than one alternative designee and may include members of the

emergency response team. When emergency response officials are present, they may elect to take command and control of the crisis. It is critical in this situation that school officials assume a resource role and be available as necessary to emergency response officials.

### III. PREPARATION BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

#### A. Communication

1. District Employees. Teachers generally have the most direct contact with students on a day-to-day basis. As a result, they must be aware of their role in responding to crisis situations. This also applies to non-teaching education district personnel who have direct contact with students. All staff shall be aware of the education district's Crisis Management Policy and their own building's crisis management plan. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan shall include the method and dates of dissemination of the plan to its staff. Employees will receive a copy of the relevant building-specific crisis management plans and shall receive periodic training on plan implementation.
2. Students and Parents. Students and parents shall be made aware of the education district's Crisis Management Policy and relevant tailored crisis management plans for each school building. Each education district's building-specific crisis management plan shall set forth how students and parents are made aware of the district and school-specific plans. Students shall receive specific instruction on plan implementation and shall participate in a required number of drills and practice sessions throughout the school year.

#### B. Planning and Preparing for Fire

1. Designate a safe area at least 50 feet away from the building to enable students and staff to evacuate. The safe area should not interfere with emergency responders or responding vehicles and should not be in an area where evacuated persons are exposed to any products of combustion. (Depending on the wind direction, where the building on fire is located, the direction from which the fire is arriving, and the location of fire equipment, the distance may need to be extended.)

***[Note: Evacuation areas at least 50 feet from school buildings are recommended but not mandated by statute or rule. Evacuation areas should be selected based on safety and the individual school site's proximity to streets, traffic patterns, and other hazards.]***

2. Each building's facility diagram and site plan shall be available in appropriate areas of the building and shall identify the most direct evacuation routes to the designated safe areas both inside and outside of the building. The facility diagram and site plan must identify the location of the fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs.
3. Teachers and staff will receive training on the location of the primary emergency evacuation routes and alternate routes from various points in the building. During fire drills, students and staff will practice evacuations using primary evacuation routes and alternate routes.
4. Certain employees, such as those who work in hazardous areas in the building, will receive training on the locations and proper use of fire extinguishers and protective clothing and equipment.
5. Fire drills will be conducted periodically without warning at various times of the



day and under different circumstances, e.g., lunchtime, recess, and during assemblies. State law requires a minimum of five fire drills each school year, consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 299F.30. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035.

***[Note: The State Fire Marshal advises education districts to defer fire drills during the winter months.]***

6. A record of fire drills conducted at the building will be maintained in the building administrator's office.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Preparedness/Planning section, has a sample fire drills schedule and log.]***

7. The education district will have pre-arranged sites for emergency sheltering and transportation as needed.
8. The education district will determine which staff will remain in the building to perform essential functions if safe to do so (e.g., switchboard, building engineer, etc.). The education district also will designate an administrator or his or her designee to meet local fire or law enforcement agents upon their arrival.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, has a sample fire procedure form, evacuation/relocation and student reunification/release procedures, and planning for student reunification.]***

C. Facility Diagrams and Site Plans

All school buildings will have a facility diagram and site plan that includes the location of primary and secondary evacuation routes, exits, designated safe areas inside and outside of the building, and the location of fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs. All facility diagrams and site plans will be updated regularly and whenever a major change is made to a building. Facility diagrams and site plans will be maintained by the building administrator and will be easily accessible and on file in the education district office. Facility diagrams and site plans will be provided to first responders, such as fire and law enforcement personnel.

***[Note: For single building education districts, such as charter schools, a secondary location for the diagrams and site plans will be included in the district's Crisis Management Policy and may include filing documents with a charter school sponsor, or compiling facility diagrams and site plans and distributing copies to first responders or sharing the documents with first responders during the crisis planning process.]***

***[Note: To the extent data contained in facility diagrams and site plans constitute security information pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.37, education districts are advised to consult with appropriate officials and/or legal counsel prior to dissemination of the facility diagrams or site plans to anyone other than first responders.]***

D. Emergency Telephone Numbers

Each building will maintain a current list of emergency telephone numbers and the names and addresses of local, county, and state personnel who may be involved in a crisis situation. The list will include telephone numbers for local police, fire, ambulance, hospital, the Poison Control Center, county and state emergency

management agencies, local public works departments, local utility companies, the public health nurse, mental health/suicide hotlines, and the county welfare agency. A copy of this list will be kept on file in the education district office, or at a secondary location for single building education districts and will be updated annually.

Education district employees will receive training on how to make emergency contacts, including 911 calls, when the education district's main telephone number and location is electronically conveyed to emergency personnel instead of the specific building in need of emergency services.

Education district plans will set forth a process to internally communicate an emergency, using telephones in classrooms, intercom systems, or two-way radios, as well as the procedure to enable the staff to rapidly convey emergency information to a building designee. Each plan will identify a primary and secondary method of communication for both internal and secondary use. It is recommended that the plan include several methods of communication because computers, intercoms, telephones, and cell phones may not be operational or may be dangerous to use during an emergency.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Preparedness/Planning section, has a sample Emergency Phone Numbers list.]***

E. Warning and Notification Systems

The education district shall maintain a warning system designed to inform students, staff, and visitors of a crisis or emergency. This system shall be maintained on a regular basis under the maintenance plan for all school buildings. The education district should consider an alternate notification system to address the needs of staff and students with special needs, such as vision or hearing.

The building administrator shall be responsible for informing students and employees of the warning system and the means by which the system is used to identify a specific crisis or emergency situation. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan will include the method and frequency of dissemination of the warning system information to students and employees.

F. Early School Closure Procedures

The executive director will make decisions about closing school or buildings as early in the day as possible. The early school closure procedures will set forth the criteria for early school closure (e.g., weather-related, utility failure, or a crisis situation), will specify how closure decisions will be communicated to staff, students, families, and the school community (designated broadcast media, local authorities, e-mail, or district or school building web sites), and will discuss the factors to be considered in closing and reopening a school or building.

Early school closure procedures also will include a reminder to parents and guardians to listen to designated local radio and TV stations for school closing announcements, where possible.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, provides universal procedures for severe weather shelter.]***

G. Media Procedures

The executive director has the authority and discretion to notify parents or guardians and the school community in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The executive director will designate a spokesperson who will notify the media in the event

of a crisis or early school closure. The spokesperson shall receive training to ensure that the district is in strict compliance with federal and state law relative to the release of private data when conveying information to the media.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, has a sample Media Procedures form.]***

H. Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Procedures

Short-term behavioral health crisis intervention procedures will set forth the procedure for initiating behavioral health crisis intervention plans. The procedures will utilize available resources including the school psychologist, counselor, community behavioral health crisis intervention, or others in the community. Counseling procedures will be used whenever the executive director or the building administrator determines it to be necessary, such as after an assault, a hostage situation, shooting, or suicide. The behavioral health crisis intervention procedures shall include the following steps:

1. Administrators will meet with relevant persons, including school psychologists and counselors, to determine the level of intervention needed for students and staff.
2. Designate specific rooms as private counseling areas.
3. Escort siblings and close friends of any victims as well as others in need of emotional support to the counseling areas.
4. Prohibit media from interviewing or questioning students or staff.
5. Provide follow-up services to students and staff who receive counseling.
6. Resume normal school routines as soon as possible.

I. Long-Term Recovery Intervention Procedures

Long-term recovery intervention procedures may involve both short-term and long-term recovery planning:

1. Physical/structural recovery.
2. Fiscal recovery.
3. Academic recovery.
4. Social/emotional recovery.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Recovery section, addresses the recovery components in more detail.]***

**IV. ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL**

A. Definitions

1. "Active shooter drill" means an emergency preparedness drill designed to teach students, teachers, school personnel, and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school. An active shooter drill is not an active shooter simulation, nor may an active shooter drill include any sensorial components, activities, or elements which mimic a real life shooting.
2. "Active shooter simulation" means an emergency exercise including full-scale

or functional exercises, designed to teach adult school personnel and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school which also incorporates sensorial components, activities, or elements mimicking a real life shooting. Activities or elements mimicking a real life shooting include, but are not limited to, simulation of tactical response by law enforcement. An active shooter simulation is not an active shooter drill.

3. "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that demonstrates any of the following:
  - a. a statistically significant effect on relevant outcomes based on any of the following:
    - i. strong evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented experimental studies;
    - ii. moderate evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented quasi-experimental studies; or
    - iii. promising evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented correlational studies with statistical controls for selection bias; or
  - b. a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluations that the program or practice is likely to improve relevant outcomes, including the ongoing efforts to examine the effects of the program or practice.
4. "Full-scale exercise" means an operations-based exercise that is typically the most complex and resource-intensive of the exercise types and often involves multiple agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, and real-time movement of resources.
5. "Functional exercises" means an operations-based exercise designed to assess and evaluate capabilities and functions while in a realistic, real-time environment, however, movement of resources is usually simulated.

B. Criteria

An active shooter drill conducted according to Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.037 with students in early childhood through grade 12 must be:

1. accessible;
2. developmentally appropriate and age appropriate, including using appropriate safety language and vocabulary;
3. culturally aware;
4. trauma-informed; and
5. inclusive of accommodations for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

C. Student Mental Health and Wellness

Active shooter drill protocols must include a reasonable amount of time immediately following the drill for teachers to debrief with their students. The opportunity to debrief

must be provided to students before regular classroom activity may resume. During the debrief period, students must be allowed to access any mental health services available on campus, including counselors, school psychologists, social workers, or cultural liaisons. An active shooter drill must not be combined or conducted consecutively with any other type of emergency preparedness drill. An active shooter drill must be accompanied by an announcement prior to commencing. The announcement must use concise and age-appropriate language and, at a minimum, inform students there is no immediate danger to life and safety.

D. Notice

1. The education district must provide notice of a pending active shooter drill to every student's parent or legal guardian before an active shooter drill is conducted. Whenever practicable, notice must be provided at least 24 hours in advance of a pending active shooter drill and inform the parent or legal guardian of the right to opt their student out of participating.
2. If a student is opted out of participating in an active shooter drill, no negative consequence must impact the student's general school attendance record nor may nonparticipation alone make a student ineligible to participate in or attend school activities.
3. The Commissioner ~~of the Minnesota Department of Education~~ must ensure the availability of alternative safety education for students who are opted out of participating or otherwise exempted from an active shooter drill. Alternative safety education must provide essential safety instruction through less sensorial safety training methods and must be appropriate for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

E. Participation in Active Shooter Drills

Any student in early childhood through grade 12 must not be required to participate in an active shooter drill that does not meet the Criteria set forth above.

F. Active Shooter Simulations

A student must not be required to participate in an active shooter simulation. An active shooter simulation must not take place during regular school hours if a majority of students are present, or expected to be present, at the school. A parent or legal guardian of a student in grades 9 through 12 must have the opportunity to opt their student into participating in an active shooter simulation.

G. Violence Prevention

1. An education district or charter school conducting an active shooter drill must provide students in middle school and high school at least one hour, or one standard class period, of violence prevention training annually.
2. The violence prevention training must be evidence-based and may be delivered in-person, virtually, or digitally. Training must, at a minimum, teach students the following:
  - a. how to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual who may be at risk of harming oneself or others;
  - b. the importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help; and
  - c. the steps to report dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity.

3. A education district or charter school must ensure that students have the opportunity to contribute to their school's safety and violence prevention planning, aligned with the recommendations for multihazard planning for schools, including but not limited to:
  - a. student opportunities for leadership related to prevention and safety;
  - b. encouragement and support to students in establishing clubs and programs focused on safety; and
  - c. providing students with the opportunity to seek help from adults and to learn about prevention connected to topics including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and suicide.

H. Board Meeting

At a regularly scheduled education district board meeting, a education district board of a district that has conducted an active shooter drill must consider the following:

1. the effect of active shooter drills on the safety of students and staff; and
2. the effect of active shooter drills on the mental health and wellness of students and staff.

**V. SAMPLE PROCEDURES INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY**

Sample procedures for the various hazards/emergencies listed below are attached to this Policy for use when drafting specific crisis management plans. Additional sample procedures may be found in the Response section of the *Comprehensive School Safety Guide* (2011 Edition). After approval by the education district board, an adopted procedure will become an addendum to the Crisis Management Policy.

- A. Fire
- B. Hazardous Materials
- C. Severe Weather: Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm/Flooding
- D. Medical Emergency
- E. Fight/Disturbance
- F. Assault
- G. Intruder
- H. Weapons
- I. Shooting
- J. Hostage
- K. Bomb Threat
- L. Chemical or Biological Threat
- M. Checklist for Telephone Threats

- N. Demonstration
- O. Suicide
- P. Lock-down Procedures
- Q. Shelter-In-Place Procedures
- R. Evacuation/Relocation
- S. Media Procedures
- T. Post-Crisis Procedures
- U. School Emergency Response Team
- V. Emergency Phone Numbers
- W. Highly Contagious Serious Illness or Pandemic Flu

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES**

A. Chemical Accidents

Procedures for reporting chemical accidents shall be posted at key locations such as chemistry labs, art rooms, swimming pool areas, and janitorial closets.

***[Note: School buildings must maintain Material Safety Data Sheets (M.S.D.S.) for all chemicals on campus. State law, federal law, and OSHA require that pertinent staff have access to M.S.D.S. in the event of a chemical accident.]***

B. Visitors

The education district shall implement procedures mandating visitor sign in and visitors in school buildings. See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to Education District Buildings and Sites).

The education district shall implement procedures to minimize outside entry into school buildings except at designated check-in points and assure that all doors are locked prior to and after regular building hours.

C. Student Victims of Criminal Offenses at or on School Property

The education district shall establish procedures allowing student victims of criminal offenses on school property the opportunity to transfer to another school within the education district.

***[Note: The Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 United States Code section 6301, et seq.; Title IX, 20 United States Code section 1681, et seq.; and the Unsafe School Choice Option, 20 United States Code section 7912, require education districts to establish such transfer procedures.]***

D. Radiological Emergencies at Nuclear Generating Plants [OPTIONAL]

Education districts within a 10-mile radius of the Monticello or Prairie Island nuclear power plants will implement crisis plans in the event of an accident or incident at the power plant.

Questions relative to the creation or implementation of such plans will be directed to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 12 (Emergency Management)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12A (Natural Disaster; State Assistance)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.038 (Students Safe at School)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 (Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones)  
Minn. Stat. § 299F.30 (Fire Drill in School; Doors and Exits)  
Minn. Stat. § 326B.02, Subd. 6 (Powers)  
Minn. Stat. § 326B.106 (General Powers of Commissioner of Labor and Industry)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4 (Trespasses)  
Minn. Rules Ch. 7511 (Fire Code)  
20 U.S.C. § 1681, *et seq.* (Title IX)  
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 7912 (Unsafe School Choice Option)  
42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.* (Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites)  
*Comprehensive School Safety Guide*  
[Minnesota School Safety Center - Resources \(mn.gov\)](http://mn.gov)



- VII. **Other:**
- VIII. **Comments: Board/Director**
- IX. **Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the River Bluff Education Center in Red Wing.**
- X. **Adjournment**