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MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616

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## **616 SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **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 the 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 cooperative. The cooperative established a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards. The cooperative 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 cooperative will be accountable to the public.

### **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 cooperative.
- B. “Graduation Standards” means the credit requirements and locally adopted content standards or Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards that the cooperative must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- C. “World’s best workforce” means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; close the academic achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups of students and between students living in poverty and students not living in poverty; have all students attain career and college readiness before graduating from high school; and have all students graduate from high school.

### **IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; AND EVALUATION**

- A. Cooperative Goals

1. The cooperative board has established cooperative goals that provide broad direction for the cooperative. 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 cooperative board. The cooperative board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the Cooperative's Advisory Committee.
  2. The Advisory Committee is established by the cooperative board to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and cooperative academic standards.
  3. The cooperative-wide improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the Advisory Committee process. The cooperative's goal setting process will include consideration of individual site goals. Cooperative 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 cooperative's progress toward implementation of the Minnesota K-12 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, Subd. 3, and teacher evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40 or 122A.41.
- C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements
1. The Advisory Committee shall also advise the cooperative 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 Advisory Committee shall be published annually to the community. The cooperative board shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update this policy at least annually.
  2. The cooperative board shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at each site meet federal expectations. If the cooperative 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 Advisory Committee shall work with the school site to adopt a plan to raise student achievement

levels to meet federal expectations. The 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 cooperative board to measure individual students' educational progress must be based, to the extent annual tests are administered, on indicators of achievement growth that show an individual student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide or districtwide assessments. The cooperative board will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The cooperative 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 January 15 of each year, the Advisory Committee will meet to advise and assist the cooperative in the implementation of the cooperative system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process.
2. The Advisory Committee, working in cooperation with other committees of the cooperative, will provide active community participation in:
  - a. Reviewing the cooperative 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 school board;
  - c. Making recommendations regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure cooperative progress toward its goals; and,
  - d. Advising the cooperative board about development of the annual budget.
3. The Advisory Committee shall meet the following criteria:
  - a. The Advisory Committee shall ensure active community participation in all planning for instruction and curriculum affecting Graduation Standards.

- b. The Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the cooperative board on cooperative-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 cooperative 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 Advisory Committee in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the cooperative board.
4. The Advisory Committee shall, when possible, be comprised of at least two-thirds community representatives and shall reflect the diversity of the community. To the extent possible, the Advisory Committee shall reflect the diversity of the school district and its school sites and include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents. Included in its membership should be:
- a. The District Assessment Coordinator
  - b. Principal
  - c. Cooperative Board Member
  - d. Student Representative
  - e. One teacher from each program
  - f. One parent from each program
  - g. Two residents of agencies typically associated with students served by the programs
  - h. Two residents representative of local business or industry
5. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.

6. The Advisory Committee shall meet the following timeline each year:

August: Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the cooperative board. Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum of the cycle content area.

March: Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations. Present recommendations to the cooperative 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 toward Literacy by Grade 3, the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the 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 cooperative board.

F.

***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 Achievement; Striving for 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. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)

Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)  
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

***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)