

616 SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to focus public education strategies on a process which promotes higher academic achievement for all students and ensures broad-based community participation in decisions regarding the implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and the No Child Left Behind Act.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and No Child Left Behind Act will require a new level of accountability for the school district. The school district will establish 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 school district will be accountable to the public and the state through annual reporting.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Course credit” is equivalent to a student’s successful completion of an academic year of study or a student’s mastery of the applicable subject matter as determined by the school district.
- B. “Minnesota Academic Standards” means the course credit requirements that school districts must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A. School District Goals

- 1. The school board has established school district-wide goals which provide broad direction for the school district. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota Academic Standards and the No Child Left Behind Act. The broad goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the school board. The school board

shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the Systems Accountability Team.

2. The improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the advisory committee process. The school district's goal setting process will include consideration of individual site goals. School district goals may 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 school district's progress toward implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. The school board shall appoint a Systems Accountability Team which shall advise the school board on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including K-12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities, and other related issues. Recommendations of this committee shall be published annually to the community. The school board shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update these policies at least annually.
2. The school board shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at each school site meet state expectations. If the school board determines that student achievement levels at a school site do not meet state expectations and the site has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the Systems Accountability Team shall work with the school site to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels to meet state and local expectations.
3. The educational assessment system component utilized by the school board to measure individual students' educational progress must be based, to the extent annual tests are administered, on indicators of achievement growth that show an individual student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide or districtwide assessments.

D. Advisory Committee for Comprehensive Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

1. By May of each year, the advisory committee will meet to advise and

assist the school district in the implementation of the school district system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process.

2. The advisory committee will provide active community participation in:
 - a. Reviewing the school district instructional and curriculum plan, with emphasis on implementing the Minnesota 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 school district progress toward its goals;
 - d. Making recommendations regarding the development of the “Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Performance.”
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 Academic Standards.
 - b. The Systems Accountability Team shall make recommendations to the school board on school district-wide standards, assessments and program evaluation for the purpose of evaluating student progress.
 - c. Building teams may be established as subcommittees to develop and implement an education effectiveness plan and to carry out methods to improve instruction, curriculum, and assessments as well as methods to use technology in meeting the school district improvement plan.
4. The advisory committee shall, when possible, be comprised of 50% community representatives and shall reflect the diversity of the community. Membership shall include school board, administration, teachers, parents and community representatives.

E. Reporting

An “Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Performance” shall be

approved by the school board and distributed to the public. A copy shall be sent to the Commissioner by October 15th of each year. The public report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Student performance goals for meeting the Academic Standards;
2. Result of local assessment data and any additional test data, including all data required by Minn. Rules Part 3501.0160;
3. School district improvement plans;
4. Progress on previous improvement plans;
5. Amount and type of revenue attributed to each educational site as defined in Minn. Stat. § 123B.04;
6. Names of advisory committee members, dates their terms expire, method of selection and application dates;
7. Periodic reports on constituencies' satisfaction with schools;
8. Biennial evaluations of the school district testing program and AOM.