

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 719  
PRIOR LAKE - SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS**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 federal law.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Course credit" is equivalent to a student successfully completing an academic year of study or a student mastering the applicable subject matter as determined by the school district.
- B. "Graduation Standards" means the course credit requirements or Minnesota Academic Standards that school districts must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- C. "Worlds 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.

**III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law has required a new level of accountability for the school district. The school district will establish a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota Academic Standards. The school district also 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.

**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 federal law. The broad goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the school board.

2. The improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the District Curriculum Committee process and reviewed by the District Curriculum Advisory Committee. 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 District Curriculum Advisory Committee 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. The school board will be updated on these items and take action through the District's process of setting and approving the annual World's Best Workforce report.
  2. The Director of Teaching and Learning shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at each school site meet federal expectations defined by the Minnesota Department of Education as North Star Accountability. If student achievement levels at a school site do not meet federal expectations, the school site shall develop implement strategies in the site continuous improvement plan to raise student achievement levels to meet federal 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 district wide assessments. The district will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The district must coordinate with MDE in evaluating school sites and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.
- D. District Curriculum Advisory Committee (DCAC)  
*As per MN statute, the district is required to have an advisory committee that actively participates in the process of reviewing and improving curriculum and instruction. The committee shall be comprised of district/site administration, elementary and secondary staff, board members, and parent/community members.*
1. Membership  
The district committee membership roster will consist of:
    - a. An elementary principal, a secondary principal, the Director of Teaching and Learning.
    - b. Parent and/or community representatives.
    - c. One member of the Board of Education.
    - d. One elementary, one middle school and one high school teacher representatives from content areas under review.
  2. Meeting Time
    - a. The District Curriculum Advisory Committee will meet a minimum of 4-6 times per year from October – April.
    - b. Meeting dates will be set in September

c. A public hearing may be scheduled by the committee in order to solicit input from the broader community on controversial topics.

3. Objective

The committee has advisory responsibilities to the school board in regard to district wide curriculum, curriculum review and selection, assessment, and program exploration and evaluations.

4. Officers and Rules

The Director of Teaching and Learning will chair the committee. Robert's Rules of Order will be used as a guide for meetings. Membership of citizens on the committee will be for two-year terms approved by the Board of Education. Terms may be repeated. Minutes of each meeting will be kept.

E. Reporting

1. By October 1 each year the District shall report the following:

- a. student performance goals for meeting current state academic standards;
- b. results of local assessment data, and any additional test data;
- c. annual district improvement plans including staff development goals;
- d. and progress on previous improvement plans

2. The school district shall publish or post electronically the district's progress towards goal areas in Worlds Best Workforce and make it available to residents of the district. Notice of the complete report will be communicated to community in periodic circulations in the district. The school district will also provide a copy of the report upon request. A copy shall be sent to the Minnesota Department of Education commissioner by December 1st.