

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for continuous review and improvement of the NWSISD curriculum.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Curriculum development shall be directed toward the fulfillment of the mission and goals of NWSISD.

**III. RESPONSIBILITY**

A. The Executive Director shall be responsible for curriculum development and for determining the most effective way of conducting research on NWSISD'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 the curricula developed.

**IV. DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- A. The school board shall 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, shall 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 shall comprise at least two-thirds of advisory committee members.
- C. The district advisory committee shall 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 district may establish site teams as subcommittees of the district advisory committee.
- E. The district advisory committee shall recommend to the school board
1. rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals and measures consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.11, subdivision 1a, section 120B.022, subdivisions 1a and 1b, and section 120B.35,
  2. district assessments,
  3. means to improve students' equitable access to effective and more diverse teachers, and
  4. 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**

- A. Within the ongoing process of curriculum development, the following needs shall be addressed:
1. Provide for articulation of courses of study from kindergarten through grade twelve.
  2. Identify minimum objectives for each course and at each elementary grade level.
  3. Provide for continuing evaluation of programs for the purpose of attaining school district objectives.
  4. Provide a program for ongoing monitoring of student progress.
  5. Provide for specific, particular, and special needs of all members of the student community.
  6. Develop a local literacy plan to have every child reading at or above grade level no later than the end of grade 3, including English learners, and teachers providing comprehensive, scientifically based reading instruction consistent with law.
  7. Integrate required and elective course standards in the scope and sequence of the district curriculum.
  8. Meet all applicable requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education and federal law.
- B. Students identified as not reading at grade level by the end of kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia. Students in grade 3 or higher who demonstrate a reading difficulty to a classroom teacher must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia, unless a different reason for the reading difficulty has been identified. See Minnesota Statutes section 120B.12, Subd. 2.
- C. 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, Subd. 1(c). A student's plan under this section shall continue while the student is enrolled.
- D. The Executive Director shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of all state-mandated curriculum changes, as well as recommended discretionary changes, and for periodically presenting recommended modifications for school board review and approval.
- E. The Executive Director shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to curriculum development.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.031 (Implementing the Profile of Learning)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.10 (Findings; Improving Instruction and Curriculum)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Reading Proficiently No Later than the End of Grade 3)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125(f) (Planning for Students’ Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment)  
Minn. Rule 3500.0550 (Inclusive Educational Program)  
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 Part 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)  
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (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)  
NWSISD Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)  
NWSISD Policy 614 (State and Federal Required Testing)  
NWSISD Policy 615 (Basic Standards Testing, Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP, Section 504 Accommodation, and LEP Students)  
NWSISD Policy 616 (NWSISD System Accountability)  
NWSISD Policy 618 (Assessment of Standard Achievement)  
NWSISD Policy 621 (Record Keeping/Reporting/Advising Of Student Achievement of Graduation Standards)  
NWSISD Policy 623 (Mandatory Summer School Instruction)

*Adopted: January 15, 2003*

*Revised: May 20, 2020*

*May 17, 2023*