

# ASPEN ACADEMY

*Adopted: November 17, 2015*

*Revised: December 13, 2016, Nov 13, 2018*

*Reviewed: April 2018*

## **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.

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

Implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards will require a new level of accountability for the school district. 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.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “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.
- B. WBWC means World’s Best Workforce Committee.

### **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. The broad goals shall be

reviewed annually and approved by the school board. The school board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendation of the World's Best Workforce or advisory committee.

2. The improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the 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. Instruction and curriculum shall be reviewed and evaluated by taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, principal evaluations under Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, Subd. 3, and teacher evaluations under Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 8, or 122A.41, Subd. 5.

C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. The school board shall utilize the World's Best Workforce committee which shall advise the school board on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including K-8 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 this policy at least annually.
2. The school board shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels meet federal expectations. If the school board determines that student achievement levels do not meet federal expectations and has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years, the World's Best Workforce Committee shall work with the school to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels to meet federal expectations. The 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 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. The school board will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The school board must coordinate with MDE in evaluating schools and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.

D. World's Best Workforce Committee

1. By March of each year, the 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 committee, working in cooperation with other committees of the school district [*such as the Program Services or Governance committees*], will provide active community participation in:
  - a. Reviewing the school district instructional and curriculum plan, with emphasis on implementing the Minnesota Graduation 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. Advising the school board about development of the annual budget.
3. The World's Best Workforce Committee shall meet the following criteria:
  - a. The WBWC shall encourage active community participation in all planning for instruction and curriculum affecting Graduation Standards.
  - b. The WBWC shall make recommendations to the school board on school district-wide standards, assessments, and program evaluation.
  - c. School 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.
  - 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 WBWC in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the school board.

4. The WBWC shall, when possible, be comprised of two-thirds community representatives and shall reflect the diversity of the community. An effort will be made to include in its membership:
  - a. The Director of Curriculum (or similar educational leader)
  - b. Principal
  - c. School Board Member
  - d. Student Representative
  - e. One teacher from various instructional levels
  - f. Parent(s) from various instructional levels
  - g. Community members
5. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.
6. The WBCB shall meet the following timeline each year:

Sept: Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the school board.

Sept-Dec: Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum of the cycle content area.

January: Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations.

Feb-Mar: Present recommendations to the school 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 the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the WBWC in the instruction and curriculum review process.

- F. Educational Planning and Assessment System. The school district may elect to participate in the ACT Aspire assessment to provide a longitudinal, systematic approach to student educational and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation.
  
- G. Reporting. Consistent with Minn. Stat. § 120B.36, Subd. 1, the school board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in the district, by mail, or by electronic means on the school district website. The school 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 to review school district success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to the world's best workforce. The school board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. The school 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 school district shall include the results of this evaluation in its published reports and in its summary report to the Commissioner.