

ASPEN ACADEMY

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MSBA/MASA Model Policy 616

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616 CHARTER SCHOOL 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 charter school. The school established a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards. The school 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 school will be accountable to the public and the state through annual reporting.

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 charter school.
- B. "Graduation Standards" means the credit requirements and locally adopted content standards or Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards that charter schools 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; EVALUATION AND REPORTING

- A. Charter School Goals
 - 1. The charter school board has established school-wide goals that provide broad direction for the school. 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 school board. The school board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the school's Advisory Committee.
 - 2. The Advisory Committee is established by the charter school board to ensure

active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and charter school academic standards.

3. The charter school-wide improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the Advisory Committee process. The school's goal setting process will include consideration of individual site goals. School 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 charter school'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 Minnesota Statutes section 123B.147, and teacher evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40 or 122A.41.

Year 1 – Singapore Math; Amplify Science 4,5

Year 2 – ELA Collaborative Classroom, 1; Core Knowledge Social Studies 3,4

Year 3 – Spelling Collaborative Classroom 4; Core Knowledge Social Studies 1,2

Year 4 – Amplify Science K-3

- C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. The Advisory Committee shall also 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 the Advisory 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 at the school meet federal expectations. If the school board determines that student achievement levels at the school do not meet federal expectations and the school has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years, the Advisory Committee shall work with the school 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 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 charter school 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 school sites and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.

- D. Comprehensive Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

1. By January of each year, the Advisory Committee will meet to advise and assist the school in the implementation of the school system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process.
2. The Advisory Committee, working in cooperation with other committees of the school [*such as the Technology, Grade Level, Site Instruction, Read Well by 3rd Grade, Curriculum Committees, etc.*], will provide active community participation in:
 - a. Reviewing the school 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 charter school board;
 - c. Making recommendations regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure charter school progress toward its goals; and,
 - d. Advising the school 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 charter school board on school-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 charter school 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 school 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 charter school and its school sites and include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents. Included in its membership should be:
 - a. The Director of Curriculum (or similar educational leader)
 - b. Principal

- c. Charter School Board Member
 - d. Student Representative
 - e. One teacher from each building or instructional level
 - f. Two parents from each building or instructional level
 - g. Two residents without school-aged children, non-representative of local business or industry
 - h. Two residents representative of local business or industry
 - i. Charter School Assessment Coordinator (if different from "a." above)
5. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.
6. The Advisory Committee shall meet the following timeline each year:
- Month: October - Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the school board.
- Month(s): October - Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum of the cycle content area.
- Month(s): November - Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations.
- Month: November - 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 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 school board.
- F. Reporting
1. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.36, subdivision 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 charter school 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 cultural competency and efforts to equitably distribute diverse, effective, experienced, and in-field teachers, and to review school 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 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 shall include the results of this evaluation in its published reports and in its summary report to the Commissioner.

2. The school performance report for a charter school must include performance reporting information and calculate proficiency rates as required by the most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

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. Stat. § 124E.03 (Applicable Law)
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)
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 104 (Charter School Mission Statement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (Charter School Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 614 (Charter School 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 (Charter School 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)