



Small is Mighty

Policy #: 604

Name of Policy: Instructional Curriculum

Adoption Date: December 2025

Updated:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the development of course offerings for students.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Instruction must be provided in at least the following subject areas:
 - 1. basic communication skills including reading and writing, literature, and fine arts;
 - 2. mathematics and science;
 - 3. social studies, including history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship that includes civics;
 - 4. health and physical education;
 - 5. The arts;
- B. The basic instructional program shall include all courses required for each grade level by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and all courses required in all elective subject areas. The instructional approach will be nonsexist and multicultural.
- C. Public schools shall offer at least three, and require at least two, of the following four art areas: dance, music, theater, and visual arts.
- D. The school board, at its discretion, may offer additional courses in the instructional program at any grade level.
- E. Each instructional program shall be planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the school district and other relevant factors. Each program plan should contain goals and objectives, materials, minimum student competency levels, and methods for student evaluation.
- F. The superintendent shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to instructional curriculum.
- G. The school district or charter school may not discriminate against or discipline a teacher or principal on the basis of incorporating into curriculum contributions of persons in a federally protected class or state protected class when the included contribution is in alignment with standards and benchmarks adopted under Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.021 and 120B.023.

III. REQUIRED ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- A. The following subject areas are required for statewide accountability:
 - 1. language arts
 - 2. mathematics,
 - 3. science;

4. social studies, including history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship that includes civics;
 5. physical education;
 6. health for which locally developed academic standards apply; and
 7. the arts
- B. Elementary schools must offer at least three and require at least two of the following five arts areas: dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts. High schools must offer at least three and require at least one of the following five arts areas: media arts, dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

IV. **PARENTAL CURRICULUM REVIEW**

The school district shall have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child and, if the parent, guardian, or adult student objects to the content, to make reasonable arrangements with school personnel for alternative instruction. Alternative instruction may be provided by the parent, guardian, or adult if the alternative instruction, if any, offered by the school board does not meet the concerns of the parent, guardian, or adult. The school board is not required to pay for the costs of alternative instruction provided by a parent, guardian, or adult. School personnel may not impose an academic or other penalty upon a student merely for arranging alternative instruction under this section. School personnel may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work.