

Policy #: 607
Title: ORGANIZATION OF GRADE LEVELS
Date of Initial Approval: 02-18-2015
Revision/Re-authorization Dates: 06-27-2019
Reviewers: MSA Directors

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to address the grade level organization at the Minnesota State Academies (MSA).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the school district is to address the groupings of grade levels as recognized in *Minn. Stat. § 120A.05*, as follows:

- *Elementary:*
Grades prekindergarten through 6
- *Middle:*
Minimum of two consecutive grades above 4th but below 10th
- *Secondary:*
(Grades 7 through 12)
- *Middle School*
Grades 7 through 8
- *Senior High*
Grades 9 through 12
- *Vocational*
Grades 9 through 12

B. The superintendent may seek MSA board approval to administer certain programs on a non-graded basis or a design different than indicated above. Program proposals that seek MSA board approval must meet all state requirements and reflect the rationale for the modification.

C. At MSA, current programs are established as follows:

- a. Minnesota State Academy for the Blind
 - i. Multi-Disabilities Program: non-graded
 - ii. Academic Program
 1. Elementary School: Kindergarten through 5th grade
 2. Middle School: 6th-8th grade
 3. High School: 9th-12th grade
 - iii. Academy Plus (A+) Post-Secondary Program: non-graded (Ages 18-21)
- b. Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf
 - i. Birth-18 months of age (Home-based services through Individual Family Service Plans)
 - ii. Early Childhood Education: 18 months through Pre-Kindergarten

- iii. Elementary School: Kindergarten through 5th grade
- iv. Middle School: 6th-8th grade
- v. High School: 9th-12th grade
- vi. Life Skills Program: non-graded secondary students up to age 21
- vii. Academy Plus (A+) Post-Secondary Program: non-graded (Ages 18-21)

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Early Childhood” means a program designed for students between Birth and 5 years of age, including pre-kindergarten classes.
- B. “Pre-Kindergarten” means a program designed for students younger than five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year commences that prepares students to enter kindergarten the following school year.
- C. “Kindergarten” means a program designed for students five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year commences that prepares students to enter first grade the following school year.
- D. “Multiple Disabilities Program” is a program on the MSAB campus that is designed for blind/visually impaired students who also have additional mental, learning, physical, and/or other disabilities.
- E. “Life Skills Program” is a program on the MSAD campus that is designed for deaf/hard-of-hearing students in high school through age 21 who also have additional mental, learning, physical, and/or other disabilities that require a hands-on experiential approach to learning.
- F. “Academy Plus (A+) Program” means programs on both campuses that are designed to support transition and independent living needs of students who have met high school graduation requirements but require additional supports and training to be able to transition into post-secondary programs, training, work, and/or living situations.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, Subds. 9, 10a, 11, 13, 17 (Public Schools)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 2 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)