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MSBA/MASA Model Policy 513

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513 STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND PROGRAM DESIGN

I. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents and students regarding student promotion, retention and program design.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board expects all students to achieve at an acceptable level of proficiency. Parental assistance, tutorial and remedial programs, counseling and other appropriate services shall be coordinated and utilized to the greatest extent possible to help students succeed in school.

A. Promotion

1. Students who achieve at levels deemed acceptable by local and state standards shall be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of each school year.

B. Retention

1. Kindergarten – 8th Grade

Retention of a student will occur when professional staff feels that it is in the best interest of the student. Prior to the retention of the student, the professional staff must have multiple consultations with the parents and consider the student's physical development, maturity, and emotional factors, along with the student's academic achievement.

2. 9th – 12th Grade Students

These students are on a credit system that requires the completion of a specified number of credits to be eligible for a South St. Paul High School diploma.

C. Intervention Process

1. Intervention will occur when a student fails to meet grade level benchmarks. The district supports a multi-tiered system of intervention including, but not limited to:

- a) Teacher/Parent Contact
- b) Access to Intervention Courses
- c) Enrollment in Targeted Services (school year & summer school)
- d) Referral to Student Intervention Team
- e) Referral to Child Study

D. Program Design

1. The superintendent, with participation of the professional staff and parents, shall develop and implement programs to challenge students that are consistent with the needs of students at every level. A process to assess and evaluate students for program assignment shall be developed in coordination with such programs. Opportunities for special programs and placement outside of the school district shall also be developed as additional options. All programs will be aligned with creating the world's best workforce.
2. The school district will adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying students for participation in gifted and talented programs. The guidelines should include the use of:
 - a) Multiple objective criteria; and
 - b) Assessments and procedures that are valid and reliable, fair, and based on current theory and research. Assessments and procedures should be sensitive to under-represented groups, including, but not limited to, low-income, minority, twice exceptional, and English Learners.
3. The school district will adopt procedures for the academic acceleration of gifted and talented students. These procedures will include how the school district will:
 - a) Assess a student's readiness and motivation for acceleration; and
 - b) Match the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to a student to achieve the best type of academic acceleration for that student.
4. The school district will adopt procedures, which describe the comprehensive evaluation in cognitive, social, and emotional development domains to help determine a child's ability to meet kindergarten grade expectations and progress to first grade in the subsequent year for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted and talented learners. The comprehensive evaluation must use valid and reliable instrumentation, be aligned with state kindergarten expectations, and include a parental report and teacher observations of the child's knowledge, skills, and abilities. The procedures must be sensitive to under-represented groups.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.15 (Gifted and Talented Students Program)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendent)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 614 (School District 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 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)