

Education Programs

Grade Level Configuration at District Sites

I. Purpose

This policy defines the organization of grade levels at school district schools.

II. General Statement of Policy

The school district is committed to maintaining educational programs and services that are aligned from prekindergarten through grade 12. The district will establish a grade level organization that maximizes student learning and the district's facilities, while maintaining aligned educational programs and services.

III. Grade Level Organization

A. Grade level groupings will be as follows:

1. Early childhood options and programs available for prekindergarten. Preschool is defined as 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 year.
2. Elementary schools – Kindergarten through Grade 5. Kindergarten is defined as a program designed for students who are 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 year. Children who are five years of age on or before September 1 of the school year may enroll in kindergarten.
3. Middle schools – Grades 6-8.
4. High school – Grades 9-12.

B. School principals will work collaboratively to create a smooth learning transition for students and their families as the students advance from one school to another school.

C. The school board encourages creative options that enhance an aligned educational delivery system. The board will approve all grade configurations that vary from the traditional grade level organization. The proposals may require additional start-up expenses but will provide services at an expenditure

level comparable to the approved grade level organization. The proposed configurations must align to the mission of the district, meet all state and local educational requirements, and provide rationale and research for the modification.

D. The board has approved the following choice programs within the grade level configurations:

1. Normandale Elementary School – Grades K-5 French Immersion
2. Countryside Elementary School - Grades K-5 Dual Spanish Immersion
3. Countryside Elementary School – Grades 1-5 Continuous Progress, which started its phasing out with the fall kindergarten class of 2023.
4. Highlands Elementary School – Grades 2-5 Continuous Progress
5. The choice programs are required to adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. No additional district funding will be provided for school-specific programs and services.
 - b. Board approval is required to use non-district funds for specialized programs and services at the choice schools.
 - c. The academic standards and curriculum will be implemented through flexibility in the instructional content, materials, and delivery. Modifications are approved by the director of teaching and learning.
 - d. Student enrollment guidelines may be modified in accordance with district policy.
 - e. Class size guidelines may be modified with the approval of the board to gain additional staffing full-time equivalents (FTE) as compared to other elementary schools.
 - f. All district policies and work agreements will be followed. Pre-approval of any modifications to policies or work agreements must be received by the board and/or the appropriate employee group.

Cross References:

Policy 509 (Resident Enrollment and Assignment)

Policy 510 (Open Enrollment)

Policy 513 (Student Promotion, Acceleration, Retention, and Early Kindergarten Admission)

Policy
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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 273
Edina, Minnesota