

EL 2.7 Asset Protection

Policy Quadrant: Executive Limitations

- Monitoring Time Frame: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
- Date of School Board Monitoring: August 25, 2025

Board Policy Monitoring Motions:

- Operational Interpretation is/is not reasonable
- Board does/does not accept the Superintendent's assertion of compliance/non-compliance

Global Constraint:

The Superintendent shall not cause or allow district assets to be unprotected, inadequately maintained, inappropriately used, or unnecessarily risked.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret compliance with this policy to mean that the District has systems in place to protect its assets from loss, damage, misuse, or unnecessary risk, and that each of the twelve provisions (2.7.1–2.7.12) are in compliance. I further interpret “assets” to include both physical and intellectual property of the District with a value greater than \$10,000 in alignment with District Policy 704.

In this context, I interpret assets to be at risk when they are left without proper insurance or procedural safeguards, when routine maintenance is not performed to preserve their condition, when they are used in ways that do not support the District's educational mission, or when they are exposed to avoidable threats due to a lack of oversight or physical security. Protecting assets requires not only insuring them appropriately, but also maintaining them responsibly, aligning their use with the District's Ends, and putting systems in place to prevent theft, misuse, or preventable loss.

JUSTIFICATION:

The District’s interpretation of asset protection is supported by authoritative standards from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO), the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). These organizations provide recognized frameworks for risk management, financial stewardship, and the safeguarding of public resources, which inform the reasonableness of our operational interpretations and justifications throughout this monitoring report.

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. Child Policies 2.7.1 through 2.7.12 are in compliance.
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EVIDENCE:

Child Policies 2.7.1 through 2.7.12 are in compliance.

STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.1

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Develop a facilities construction, renovation and maintenance plan that is not part of a comprehensive rolling ten-year plan.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret “a comprehensive rolling ten-year plan” to mean a master plan for facilities construction, renovation, and maintenance needs over a ten-year horizon and is reviewed and updated annually. The annual update allows the District to adjust for emerging facility needs, enrollment changes, and evolving educational programming.

This interpretation aligns with the Minnesota Department of Education’s requirement that school districts maintain a Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) plan covering a ten-year period, reviewed and submitted annually. Maintaining a rolling 10-year plan is also considered standard practice in public sector facilities management, as it promotes proactive investment, avoids escalating deferred maintenance costs, and supports alignment between facility use and educational goals.

JUSTIFICATION:

A school district needs an ongoing program of assessment of existing school sites and facilities in order to identify school facility improvement issues, alternative means of addressing those issues, and to maintain a quality educational environment for students, staff, and community/partnership users. “To establish and maintain quality school facilities and a desirable learning environment for students, staff, and community users, an ongoing assessment of school facility needs and a program of public information about those needs is essential. (Guide for Planning School Construction Projects in Minnesota; MDE, 2018; p. 39)

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. The comprehensive rolling ten-year facilities plan is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
2. The comprehensive rolling ten-year facilities plan is consulted and referenced during the development of any facilities construction, renovation, and/or maintenance plan.
3. The Capital Fund budget is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

EVIDENCE:

1. The school board approved on June 24, 2024 a multi-year facilities plan of proposed projects by building location as part of the 10-year long-term facility maintenance plan which was submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education for review and approval in July 2024.
2. The administration presented multiple facility projects throughout the year, in the form of seek bids and bid approvals, which required school board approval and referenced the long-term facility maintenance plan. These projects included: EPHS South Entrance updates, replacing surfaces in the EPHS activity center, HVAC updates, and the renovation of the Valley View Property.
3. At the April 22, 2024 school board meeting, the board approved the 2024-2025 capital budget which included funds to address facility improvements. Prior to approval, the administration worked with principals, department leaders, facility, staff, and the Superintendent's Cabinet to determine priorities for maintaining district facilities. Facility work completed or planned in fiscal year 2025 adhered to the Comprehensive Facility Plan and included the following components:
 - a. The district continued working on a long-term facility planning process geared to align with the strategic plan
 - b. Implemented facility changes to accommodate educational program needs and related space concerns
 - c. Discussed with the School Board deferred maintenance and capital fund expenditures and revenue sources
 - d. Continued development of Designing Pathways recommendations, including the Inspire Choice programming at all elementary schools.

STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.1 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.2

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Fail to insure against theft and casualty losses at 100 percent of replacement value and against liability losses to School Board members, staff, and the organization itself in an amount greater than the average for comparable organizations.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this policy to mean that the District must maintain adequate insurance coverage to protect against theft, casualty, and liability losses in a manner that is fiscally responsible, aligned with public sector risk standards, and compliant with state law. This includes insuring district property at 100% of replacement value and maintaining liability coverage levels that exceed the average for comparable public entities.

I further interpret this policy to mean the District must proactively manage risk by identifying, assessing, and prioritizing potential threats to assets and operations. The District uses a combination of strategies including transferring risk through insurance, reducing the likelihood or impact of loss, or accepting risk with mitigation measures in place. Marsh & McLennan provides professional brokerage services to guide this process. All coverage types are reviewed annually to ensure alignment with asset valuation, operational changes, and exposure levels.

I interpret compliance with this policy to mean that the District maintains the following coverages, reviewed and updated annually:

1. Property, Casualty, Umbrella insurance coverage is in place to insure the School District for losses to real and personal property per Statement of Values on file with the insurance company.
 - a. "Fail to insure against theft and casualty losses at 100 percent of replacement value" is interpreted to mean a level of theft and casualty insurance that assumes a reasonable level of risk with consideration to the overall cost of said insurance (See Justification 2.a.).
2. Equipment breakdown insurance coverage is in place specifically for boilers and machinery.
3. Automobile insurance coverage is in place to insure the School District for losses resulting from owned, financed, leased or rented school buses, vans, driver's education vehicles and ground/facilities vehicles are as per Schedule on file with the insurance company.

4. Commercial General Liability, Umbrella Excess Liability coverages are placed to insure against Bodily Injury & Property Damage Liability; Personal & Advertising Injury Liability; Medical Payments; Sexual Misconduct and Molestation Liability; Innocent Party; Violent Event Response, and Employee Benefits Liability.
5. School Leader's Errors & Omissions coverage included Directors and Officers and school leader's professional.
6. Crime coverage included for loss sustained from employee dishonesty, theft, disappearance and destruction, computer fraud, forgery, and faithful performance.
7. Inland Marine coverage for the transport of goods in transit, as well as moveable property and instrumentalities of communication. These categories include items such as instruments, band uniforms, cameras, fine arts, monument signs, valuable papers, solar panels, electronic data processing and miscellaneous equipment.
8. Data and Network Security covers claims made by third parties arising out of a breach of the School District's computer network and data storage units or devices.
9. Volunteer Accident coverage protects an organization's volunteer workforce for medical costs associated with an accidental injury incurred while working on behalf of the organization.
10. International General Liability coverage is in place to insure students and staff while on international school sponsored trips for medical, ransom, death, hostage, and kidnapping
11. Drone Liability coverage is in place to protect the School District for third party claims of property damage or injury resulting from the use of a district owned drone.
12. Workers' Compensation is a form of insurance providing wage replacement and medical benefits to employees injured in the course of employment in exchange for mandatory relinquishment of the employee's right to sue his or her employer for the tort of negligence.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Minnesota Department of Education encourages school districts to maintain sufficient insurance coverage to protect public assets and minimize financial disruption, including Insuring district assets against theft, casualty, and liability aligns with widely accepted public sector risk management standards and legal expectations.

Additionally, insuring at 100% replacement value is consistent with guidance from public risk pool administrators and insurance underwriters, including the Minnesota School Boards Association Insurance Trust (MSBAIT) and the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), both of which recommend full replacement coverage to mitigate exposure to catastrophic loss.

Liability insurance coverage exceeding average peer thresholds is justified by the District's operational size, scope, and exposure, and is supported by statutory expectations under Minnesota Tort Liability Law (Chapter 466), which assigns liability to political subdivisions unless reasonable safeguards are in place.

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. The annual review of school district risk management processes is evidenced through the renewal of our insurance plans that conform to the interpretation of this policy being reported to the board.
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EVIDENCE:

1. Our annual review of our insurance policies and subsequent renewal resulted in the following coverages in place July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:
 - a. Property insurance is in place through CHUBB
 - b. Automobile, Casualty, and Umbrella insurance coverage is in place through Hanover
 - c. Equipment breakdown insurance coverage is in place through Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Co.
 - d. Commercial General Liability, Umbrella Excess Liability coverages are in place through Hanover
 - e. School Leaders Errors & Omissions coverages are in place through Hanover
 - f. Crime coverages are in place through Hanover
 - g. Inland Marine coverages are in place through Hanover
 - h. Data Security and cyber liability coverages are in place through Cowbell
 - i. Volunteer Accident coverage is in place through HSR, Inc
 - j. International General Liability coverages are in place through AIG
 - k. Drone Liability coverage is in place through Global
 - l. Workers' Compensation coverage is in place through SFM
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.2 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.3

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Subject facilities and equipment to improper wear and tear or insufficient maintenance.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this to mean all facility reviews and maintenance plans are in place for all school district buildings and grounds. The School Board is informed about the financial resources needed to implement the plans and that school budgets reflect the identified facility needs (within fiscal limitations).

This includes the development of long and short-term maintenance plans that identify facility needs, forecast associated costs, and align with budget planning. I further interpret that compliance requires the routine upkeep and responsible use of all physical assets including buildings, vehicles, technology, and kitchen or mechanical systems. This is accomplished through preventive maintenance, appropriate staff training, and adherence to security protocols.

JUSTIFICATION:

Effective maintenance of school district facilities and equipment is an industry standard strategy for preserving asset value, reducing long-term capital expenditures, and ensuring the health and safety of building occupants. The Minnesota Department of Education's Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) program and the "Guide for Planning School Construction Projects in Minnesota" (MDE, 2018) both stress the importance of preventative and schedule maintenance to avoid accelerated depreciation and costly emergency repairs.

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommend that districts implement lifecycle-based maintenance programs. These programs and multi-year capital plans are best practice for safeguarding public infrastructure and investment. These approaches are fiscally prudent, align with public expectations, foster trust, and are consistent with Eden Prairie Schools commitment to long-term operational efficiency.

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. Short and long-term maintenance plans for each district facility have been presented and approved.
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EVIDENCE:

The Capital and LTFM plans were approved at the May 5, 2025 meeting with the comprehensive budget approval at the June 23, 2025 meeting.

STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.3 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.4

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Allow external guests or user groups access to the facilities or assets without procedures in place to protect district concerns.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this policy to mean that the District must ensure all external users or community groups accessing district facilities do so under clearly defined procedures that protect the safety, security, and integrity of school property and operations. These procedures must prevent unauthorized access, ensure appropriate supervision, reduce risk to district assets, and limit liability exposure.

I further interpret that the adoption and implementation of District Policy 902 (“Use of School District Facilities and Equipment”) establishes the systems and safeguards necessary to govern community access. The policy outlines requirements for screening and approving external user groups, verifying insurance and safety compliance, and enforcing operational controls such as building monitors and restricted access zones. Community use of facilities is actively encouraged as part of our broader commitment to partnership, provided that all activity aligns with established policy and oversight practices.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) provides the model policy framework for District Policy 902 – Use of School District Facilities and Equipment. As a recognized statewide authority on school governance and policy, MSBA develops model policies in alignment with Minnesota statutes, insurance and liability guidelines, and best practices for facility access and public use.

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. The appropriate application of District Policy 902 through screening and approving groups before facilities use; procedure to ensure that user groups adhere to safety, supervision, and liability requirements; and operational systems that support the protection of district property and minimize risk.

EVIDENCE:

Policy 902 was applied to support use of our sites. The Eden Prairie community utilized all district sites with over 51,538 participants and more than 220,512 hours during fiscal year 2025. Eden Prairie Schools Community Education served approximately 23,042 community members in more than 46,844. Outside of school hours, when events and/or activities are scheduled, building monitors are positioned near the one unlocked entrance to check people in, monitor traffic flow, enforce use of district facilities policy and procedures, review crisis plans and act as a liaison with building administration. All outside groups are pre-approved and accept all school safety protocols.

STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.4 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.5

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Unnecessarily expose the organization, its School Board, or its staff to claims of liability.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this to mean the actions of the school board, the superintendent's behavior, and the behavior of all district employees will be governed by state and federal law. The best way to preserve the legal liability of the school district is to ensure policies and procedures are current, the School Board and Staff are aware and understand the policies and procedures, and required trainings (Federal and State) occur annually. Deliberate provision of professional development on staff awareness of legal responsibilities and professional behavior is essential. Insurance protects the district and appropriate training ensures stakeholders are aware of changes/updates in law when necessary.

JUSTIFICATION:

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated:

1. Through acquisition of Commercial General Liability, Umbrella Excess Liability and School Leader's Errors & Omissions and Crime coverages to insure against Bodily Injury & Property Damage Liability; Personal & Advertising Injury Liability; Medical Payments; Employee Benefits Liability and Sexual Abuse, School Leader's Professional, Director's and Officer's Liability, and Employment Practices Liability.
2. When we provide opportunities for training to staff and board members on applicable Federal and State laws as necessary or required.
3. When written policies indicating appropriate procedures for various activities within the district are in place and available on our web site and in the central office.

EVIDENCE:

1. All coverages were in place during the monitoring period.
 - a. Commercial General Liability, Umbrella Excess Liability coverages are in place through Hanover (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)
 - b. School Leader’s Errors & Omissions coverages are in place through Hanover (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)
 - c. Crime coverages are in place through (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)
 2. Policies were updated and approved by the Board during the monitoring period. The District also provides ongoing training opportunities for staff on applicable Federal and State laws through professional development sessions facilitated by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA), Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), and the Minnesota Association of of School Business Officials (MASBO).
 3. Written policies outlining appropriate procedures for district operations are publicly available on the District’s website and in the central office. The District actively monitors changes to Federal and State laws that may impact Board governance or staff responsibilities and integrates those updates into regular communication and professional development for relevant employees and administrators.
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.5 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.6

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Endanger the organization's public image, its credibility, or its ability to accomplish ends.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this to mean the Superintendent shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision, or organizational circumstance that is unlawful, unsafe, imprudent, or in violation of commonly accepted educational and professional ethics and practices. I further interpret this to mean that the District must maintain a high level of public trust through transparent communication, responsible financial management, and inclusive decision-making that reflect the mission and values of Eden Prairie Schools.

JUSTIFICATION:

1. The school district's image, credibility, and ability to accomplish its Ends must be protected at all times. A deliberate provision and attention to maintaining a current, purposeful, legal, and ethical financial system significantly improves the district's ability to achieve its Ends and maintain the support of its community.
2. Superintendents are not only subject to rules and regulations related to the operation of a school district, but also to the Minnesota Code of Ethics for School Administrators (MN Rule 3512.5200).

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. There are no formal complaints of the superintendent found to be factual (substantiated) by the School Board, their designee, or the Board of School Administrators that the public image, credibility, or ability to accomplish our Ends has been endangered.
 2. When other evidence to support compliance with this policy include scientific survey results, status of brand/logo protection, and the acceptance of related Executive Limitation monitoring reports determined to be in compliance by the School Board.
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EVIDENCE:

1. There were no formal complaints made to the School Board or Board of School Administrators regarding public image violations or violations against the rules and regulations set forth by the Minnesota Code of Ethics for School Administrators.
 2. In July 2025, a valid and reliable scientific community survey was completed by a third-party organization. The school board will be presented the results in August 2025. The survey found that areas like: trust, communication, financial management, decision making, taxes, quality of education and support continued to be extremely high in context to public schools and with no statistically significant change from the prior monitoring cycle. It is noted that our survey results continue to be at the very top of public schools in the state maintaining our very positive reputation and image with the public.
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.6 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.7

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Allow uninsured personnel access to material amounts of funds.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this to mean that adequate internal controls and insurance coverages are in place to limit the District's exposure and risk of loss.

JUSTIFICATION:

Insurance coverage is essential to protect the overall integrity of the financial system. Insurance ensures that fraud, negligence, or theft by an employee will have a limited impact on the school district.

Proper internal controls are essential to limit the district's exposure to loss through fraud or error.

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. The School District develops, publishes, enforces, and reviews annually internal controls regarding access to funds.
2. The external auditors annually review the system of internal controls, conduct a system walk-through and report any exceptions.
3. Employee Theft and Dishonesty/Crime policies are in place to insure against: Employee Theft Per Loss (also includes Public Employees Faithful Performance); Depositor's Forgery/Alteration; Theft, Disappearance & Destruction (Money, Securities & Other Property – including Robbery & Safe Burglary; and Computer Funds & Transfer Fraud.

EVIDENCE:

1. The District Business Office conducted its formal annual internal control review and provided training Business Office employees on procedures for accessing and handling district funds in June 2025.
 - a. The internal control procedures revealed no exceptions during fiscal year 2025.
 - b. Petty cash and secure safes are randomly audited annually by business office staff.
 - c. All cash deposits must be accompanied by a written cash receipt. Cash receipt backup retained at the site is randomly audited by business office staff.
 - d. The use of the online payment systems, MyPaymentsPlus, Campus, GoFan and Square will reduce the amount of cash transactions throughout the district, especially in student activities and food service.
 2. Internal controls were tested by the auditors in June 2025 during pre-audit procedures. No internal control concerns were reported as a result of their procedures. The fiscal year 2025 financial audit report will be presented on or about November 24, 2025.
 3. Employee Theft and Dishonesty/Crime insurance coverage was provided by CHUBB for the 2024 fiscal year.
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.7 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.8

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Receive, process, or disburse funds under controls that are insufficient to meet the School Board-appointed auditor's standards.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this policy to mean that the District's financial transactions, controls, and reporting systems must adhere to established professional standards and be subject to independent, external audit. These standards include Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS), the federal Single Audit Act (for federal funds), and the Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

I further interpret this to mean that compliance with this policy is demonstrated when the audit process confirms that the District follows best practices in financial management, and that any findings are addressed promptly and transparently. The presence of a finding, whether in the area of Minnesota legal compliance or internal control, does not in itself indicate non-compliance with this policy unless it reflects a material weakness or failure to act on known risks.

The audit must be conducted by an independent auditor appointed by the School Board and completed in accordance with state-mandated timelines. The audit must assess the accuracy of the District's financial records, the adequacy of internal controls, and the District's compliance with applicable laws and reporting requirements.

JUSTIFICATION:

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. The independent audit of the District's financial operations is conducted annually in accordance with GAGAS and submitted to the School Board and MDE by December 31.
2. The audit report and management letter reflect that any findings are not indicative of material weaknesses or pervasive issues and are addressed by the administration through timely corrective action.

EVIDENCE:

1. The School Board approved the fiscal year 2024 audit on December 9, 2024 and these reports were submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education and the State Auditor's office in December 2024.
 2. The fiscal year 2024 Annual Audit included one Minnesota legal compliance finding related to the timely payment of vendors and no internal control findings. The Business Office addressed the compliance issue in September 2024 by implementing process improvements within the accounts payable system to ensure timely vendor payments going forward.
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.8 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.9

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Compromise the independence of the School Board's audit or other external monitoring or advice.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this policy to mean that I must not interfere with, influence, or direct the work of the external auditor. The external audit must remain independent of the administration and be conducted solely under the authority of the School Board. External auditors may not be used for other financial business, such as internal consulting or operational decision-making, that could compromise their independence or objectivity.

I further interpret this policy to mean that the Superintendent and Executive Director of Business Services must fully cooperate with the audit process while preserving its neutrality. The external audit functions as an independent report card on the district's financial and operational health. It serves as a primary safeguard of fiscal integrity and is essential for maintaining the confidence of both the Board and the public.

I interpret this policy to require that the audit be scheduled, conducted, and presented to the School Board in a timely manner each year, with all supporting materials made available to the auditors and Board. The annual audit must be scheduled, completed, and submitted in accordance with statutory deadlines, under the authority of the School Board. All interactions with the external auditor must support transparency, independence, and accountability.

JUSTIFICATION:

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with the policy will be demonstrated when:

1. The school district engages an independent auditor to complete the annual audit by December of the calendar year.
2. The audit report and management letter contain no interruption or interference by management language.

EVIDENCE:

1. The School Board accepted the fiscal year 2024 audit report on December 9, 2024.
 2. The fiscal year 2024 audit report and management letter, presented on December 9, 2024, contained no findings or communications of interruption or interference by management.
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.9 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.10

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Substantially change the principal educational purpose of a school by closing, repurposing, consolidating, combining or creating new or choice destination schools without School Board approval.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

1. I interpret *school* as:
 - a. The legal definition of *school* per Minnesota Statute 120A.05,
 - b. I further interpret *school* to be the “real property” consisting of any one of the eight (8) current *school* buildings, “Valley View” Building, and Lower Campus.
2. The phrase *principal educational purpose* is interpreted as the standard course of academic programs implemented to meet the standards established by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education (Minnesota Statute 120A.05).
3. I interpret *substantially change the principal purpose of a school* to mean:
 - a. Alter the primary use of one of the District’s elementary, middle or secondary schools per the legal definition of a *school* (Minnesota Statute 120A.05).
 - b. Significantly alter the physical space and primary use of a specially designated or designed space of a *school* (i.e. gym, swimming pool, media center, etc.).
 - c. To demolish, reconfigure, or remodel in order to create a new use at a cost in excess of \$100,000 at one site.
4. I interpret *by closing or repurposing it* to mean:
 - a. *Closing* is eliminating the use of a District *school* building for any District purpose.
 - b. *Repurposing* is:
 - i. Creating a District “*Destination School*”
 - ii. Using a District *school* building for a purpose not associated with a school.
5. I interpret *by consolidating or combining it with another school* to mean:
 - a. The action of moving one *school* into another *school’s* building, and eliminating one of the *schools* affected, or;
 - b. Moving one *school* into another school’s building and changing the principal educational purpose of individual *schools*.
6. I interpret *board approval* as an affirmative majority vote by a quorum of the School Board on a recommendation provided by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

JUSTIFICATION:

1. The legal definition of *school* was used to delineate those structures from other District real properties.
2. Minnesota Statute 120A.05 defines the *principal educational purpose* of school sites:
 - a. **Subd. 9.Elementary school.** "Elementary school" means any school with building, equipment, courses of study, class schedules, enrollment of pupils ordinarily in prekindergarten through grade 6 or any portion thereof, and staff meeting the standards established by the commissioner.
 - b. **Subd. 11.Middle school.** "Middle school" means any school other than a secondary school giving an approved course of study in a minimum of two consecutive grades above 4th but below 10th with building, equipment, courses of study, class schedules, enrollment, and staff meeting the standards established by the commissioner of education.
 - c. **Subd. 13.Secondary school.** "Secondary school" means any school with building, equipment, courses of study, class schedules, enrollment of pupils ordinarily in grades 7 through 12 or any portion thereof, and staff meeting the standards established by the commissioner of education. (*Note: the Education Center in Eden Prairie is not included in this definition, as the District does not own real property at that site.*)
3. The definition of "Real Property" was used to differentiate it from other types of property owned by the district
 - a. "Real Property" is defined as "A building or structure shall include the building or structure itself, together with all improvements or fixtures annexed to the building or structure, which are integrated with and of permanent benefit to the building or structure, regardless of the present use of the building, and which cannot be removed without substantial damage to itself or to the building or structure." (Minnesota Statute 272.03.b.) (*Note: the Education Center in Eden Prairie is not included in this definition, as we do not own real property at that site.*)
4. *Closing or Repurposing*
 - a. It is not uncommon for individual rooms in a facility to provide several functions as needs arise and priorities change over a period of time while the *school* as a whole retains its *principal educational purpose*. Most often, the *repurposing* of usable space does not require substantial changes to the physical structure.
 - b. This interpretation does not limit Administration from managing its *schools* to produce the desired ends. It does limit the administration from *substantially changing* to a *school* in a manner that would:
 - i. Physically alter a "specially designated or designed space" for a new use.
 - ii. Require contracts over \$100,000 for repurposing classroom or specialized space at a single *school* to be approved by the School Board per Minnesota Statute 123B.52 and Minnesota Statute 471.345, Subdivision 3.
5. *"Destination School"*

- a. Meets the legal definition of a *school* and provides the standard academic program and standards as established by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education *in an alternative, enhanced, or specialized learning environment*.
 - b. Is open to enroll eligible students regardless of their home location within the School District
 - c. Provides a specialized academic focus in *an alternative, enhanced, or specialized learning environment* that may include, but is not limited to: language immersion, technology, environmental studies, fine arts, online, STEM, etc.
 - i. Programs such as Level III Gifted Services, Special Education Low Incidence and Center-Based programs, and English Language Learners are not *destination schools*.
 - ii. Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion School is a *destination school* per this interpretation.
 - iii. Eden Prairie Online is a *destination school* per this interpretation.
 - iv. The Level IV Gifted and Talented programming would be considered a *destination school* at such point as it encompasses multiple grade levels at one or more *school* sites.
6. Board Approval
- a. School Board voting rules are self-explanatory and legally required to do the business of the school district

This interpretation has the expectation that the Superintendent will undertake a process that provides adequate background information, opportunities for discussion, and culminates with a specific recommendation for Board action.

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated when:

1. The district's *school* sites retain their "principal" educational purpose,
2. The district's *school* sites are not repurposed, consolidated or combined with another school without Board approval.

EVIDENCE:

1. During the reporting period all school sites serving programs during the 2024-2025 school year retained their principal educational purpose. The District continued strategic use of the Valley View site to meet evolving student needs in alignment with board approved purposes.
 - a. The TASSEL transition program began serving students in August 2024. The building was purchased in June 2024 by the School Board to support the TASSEL program and future programs.
 2. During the reporting period, there were no school sites that were repurposed, consolidated or combined.
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.10 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.11

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Allow anyone other than the School Board to name facilities, schools, classrooms, or spaces within the district.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

I interpret this policy to mean that the School Board holds exclusive authority to permanently name any district facilities or spaces when the name carries symbolic, commemorative, or public-facing significance. This includes names honoring individuals, organizations, or concepts, as well as names connected to sponsorships or other public representations of the District.

I further interpret that spaces identified by functional or descriptive terms such as “Cafeteria,” “Room 102,” or “Conference Room A” do not require School Board approval when the naming aligns with the operational or instructional purpose of the space. However, if a naming convention deviates from this functional use (e.g., naming rooms after Minnesota lakes or historic figures), it would require formal approval by the Board.

JUSTIFICATION:

Board authority, established in statute, permits the Board to enter into a contract to lease the naming rights for school facilities, sell advertising on or in facilities and otherwise enter into an agreement with a sponsoring agent. The School Board exercises approval authority for naming of all facilities owned, operated, or controlled by the Eden Prairie School District.

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy shall be demonstrated when:

1. Any name changes in the district approved by the school board that are not aligned with the intended design of the space.

EVIDENCE:

1. No spaces were named during the 2024-25 school year.
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.11 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES:

2.7.12

Furthermore, the Superintendent shall not: Eliminate any non-state-required programs that would adversely affect our reputation and/or diminish the value of our broad-based educational opportunities without School Board approval.

OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION:

1. An “educational program” is defined as “a set of learning activities with a specific goal.” In the context of a school district, an educational program is interpreted as a set of courses leading to acquisition or mastery of a set of identified competencies.
2. The core of this policy [The Superintendent shall not] “Eliminate any non-state required programs...without board approval” is self-explanatory. I interpret this policy to mean that Administration must seek approval via official vote of the School Board to discontinue any educational program at any level that is not required by Minnesota statute.
 - a. The State of Minnesota requires the following of all of its high school graduates:
 - i. 4 credits of language arts
 - ii. 3 credits of mathematics, including algebra, geometry, statistics and probability sufficient to satisfy the standards. Students in the graduating class of 2015 and beyond must complete an algebra II credit or its equivalent as part of the 3-credit requirement. In addition to the high school credits, students in the graduating class of 2015 and beyond must also complete an algebra I credit by the end of eighth grade.
 - iii. 3 credits of science, including a biology credit. In addition, students in the graduating class of 2015 and beyond must complete a chemistry, physics, or Career and Technical Education (CTE) credit as part of the 3-credit requirement. (The CTE credit must meet the standards underlying the chemistry or physics credit.)
 - iv. 3-1/2 credits of social studies, including U.S. history, geography, government and citizenship, world history and economics.
 - v. 1 credit in the arts
 - vi. 7 elective credits
 - b. In grades K-8 school districts are required to put state academic standards into place so all students have access to high-quality content and instruction. Districts must develop local standards for subjects that do not have state standards. (Source: MDE) Therefore, specific elective courses and programs are not required at these levels, but the standards embedded in those courses and programs are required to be delivered in some form to students.

3. The phrase “adversely affect our reputation and/or diminish educational opportunities” is subjective in nature. Therefore, the discussion regarding “value” becomes a consideration for the School Board rather than one for the Superintendent in the decision-making process.
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JUSTIFICATION:

The parents and owners of Eden Prairie schools value the broad-based educational program offered by the District as evidenced through strategic planning, designing pathways, and district scientific random sample community surveys conducted over time by a third-party research firm.

MEASUREMENT PLAN:

Compliance with this policy will be demonstrated:

1. When an educational program is eliminated through adherence to this policy.
 2. Through 3rd party survey data.
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EVIDENCE:

1. No educational programs were eliminated during the monitoring period without approval of the school board and in June 2025.
 2. The district conducted a third party statistically valid and reliable scientific research survey of the community in July 2025. The survey found that areas like: quality of education, district direction, and communication continued to be extremely high in context to public schools and with no statistically significant change from the prior monitoring cycle. In several areas there were statistically significant increases including perception areas like trust, effective spending, parent/community involvement, good value/investment, taxes, district pride, and decision making processes. We are among the very top public school districts in the state for public ratings of our school district. The results will be presented to the school board in August 2025.
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STATEMENT OF ASSERTION:

EL 2.7.12 is reasonable and in compliance.

BOARD NOTES: