

NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS, INC.

POLICY 616

SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

Adopted: 1/2011

Reviewed/Revised: 12/13; 12/14*; 8/15*; 8/16*; 12/18**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to promote higher academic achievement for all students and ensures broad-based community participation in decisions regarding the implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law will require a new level of accountability for the school district. The school district will establish a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota Academic Standards. The curriculum, instruction, assessment, and program evaluation shall be directed toward the fulfillment of the school's mission and student achievement goals. New Heights School will establish a process to review and improve curriculum, instruction, and assessment which includes substantial input by various stakeholders, including: students, parents or guardians, and local community members, and where applicable, from outside agencies and consultants. The school will be accountable to the school's authorizer, the public and the state through annual reporting.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Credit" means a student's successful completion of an academic year of study or a student's mastery of the applicable subject matter, as determined by the school district.
- B. "Graduation Standards" means the credit requirements and locally adopted content standards or Minnesota Academic Standards that school districts must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- C. "World's best workforce" means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; close the academic achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups of students and between students living in poverty and students not living in poverty; have all students attain career and college readiness before graduating from high school; and have all students graduate from high school.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS; IMPLEMENTATION; EVALUATION AND

REPORTING

A. School Goals

The Board of Directors establishes annual school-wide goals which provide broad direction for New Heights School. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law. The broad goals are reviewed annually and approved by the Board. The Board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the Leadership Team, and Academic Review Committee.

B. System for Reviewing All Instruction and Curriculum

Incorporated in the process will be the analysis of the school district's progress toward implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Instruction and curriculum shall be reviewed and evaluated by taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, principal evaluations under Minn. Stat. § 123.B147, Subd. 3, and teacher evaluations under Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 8, or 122A.41, Subd. 5. The School Director shall maintain a curriculum review cycle that is aligned with the state release of new standards. In addition monitoring of curriculum areas may be completed annually.

C. Academic Review Committee

The Board of Directors shall oversee an advisory committee to ensure active school community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting the Minnesota Academic Standards.

1. The committee will be known as the Academic Review Committee and shall consist of various teachers employed by the school.
2. The committee shall, to the extent possible, include a variety of stakeholders, such as: teachers, parents, and students.
3. The Academic Review Committee shall review and/or make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the following:
 - a. Rigorous state and local academic standards
 - b. Student achievement goals and measures
 - c. Assessments (local, state, national, and international)
 - d. Program evaluations
 - e. Graduation requirements

D. Reporting

Consistent with Minn. Stat. § 120B.36, Subd. 1, the Board will publish a report by electronic means on the school district website. The Board shall hold an annual

public meeting to review and revise, where appropriate, student achievement goals, local assessment outcomes, plans, strategies, and practices for improving curriculum and instruction, and to review school district success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to the world's best workforce. The Board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. The school district shall periodically survey affected constituencies about their connection to and level of satisfaction with the school. The school district shall include the results of this evaluation in its summary report to the Commissioner.