

425 STAFF DEVELOPMENT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a staff development program and structure to carry out planning and reporting on staff development that supports improved student learning.

II. ADVISORY STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND BUILDING LEADERSHIP TEAMS

- A. The school board will establish an Advisory Staff Development Committee to develop a staff development plan, assist Building Leadership Teams in developing a site plan consistent with the goals of the Staff Development Plan and evaluate staff development efforts at the site level.
 - 1. The majority of the membership of the Advisory Staff Development Committee shall consist of teachers representing various grade levels, subject areas and special education. The committee also will include nonteaching staff and administrators. Advisory Staff Development Committee will be appointed at the discretion of the district.
 - 2. Members of the Advisory Staff Development Committee shall be appointed by the school board. Committee members will serve a three-year term based upon nominations by principals. The school board shall appoint replacement members of the Advisory Staff Development Committee as soon as possible following the resignation, death, serious illness or removal of a member from the committee.
- B. The school board will require the Building Leadership Teams (BLT) to develop building level staff development plans and to evaluate the effects of the staff development efforts at the building level.

III. DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- A. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will develop a Staff Development Plan that will be reviewed and subject to approval by the school board each fall.
- B. The Staff Development Plan must contain the following elements:
 - 1. Staff development outcomes that are consistent with the education outcomes as may be determined periodically by the school board;
 - 2. The means to achieve the Staff Development outcome;

3. The procedure for evaluating progress at each school site toward meeting educational outcomes consistent with relicensure requirements under Minnesota Statutes Section 122A.187;
4. Ongoing staff development activities that contribute toward continuous improvement in achievement of the following goals:
 - a. Improve student achievement on state and local education standards in all areas of the curriculum, including areas of regular academic and applied and experiential learning, by using research-based best practices methods;
 - b. Effectively meet the needs of a diverse student population, including at-risk children, children with disabilities, English learners and gifted children, within the regular classroom, applied and experiential learning settings and other settings;
 - c. Provide an inclusive curriculum for a racially, ethnically, linguistically and culturally diverse student population that is consistent with the state education diversity rule and the district's education diversity plan;
 - d. Improve staff collaboration and develop mentoring and peer coaching programs for teachers new to the school or district;
 - e. Effectively teach and model violence prevention policy and curriculum that address early intervention alternatives, issues of harassment and teach nonviolent alternatives for conflict resolution;
 - f. Effectively deliver digital and blended learning and curriculum and engage students with technology; and
 - g. Provide teachers and other members of the building leadership teams with appropriate management and financial management skills.
5. The Staff Development Plan also must:
 - a. Support stable and productive professional communities achieved through ongoing and school wide progress and growth in teaching practice;
 - b. Emphasize coaching, professional learning communities, classroom action research and other job-embedded models;
 - c. Maintain a strong subject matter focus premised on students' learning goals consistent with Minnesota Statutes Section 120B.125;

- d. Ensure specialized preparation and learning about issues related to teaching English learners and students with special needs by focusing on long-term systemic efforts to improve educational services and opportunities and raise student achievement; and
 - e. Reinforce national and state standards of effective teaching practice.
6. Staff development activities must:
- a. Focus on the school classroom and research-based strategies that improve student learning;
 - b. Provide opportunities for teachers to practice and improve their instructional skills over time;
 - c. Provide opportunities for teachers to use student data as part of their daily work to increase student achievement;
 - d. Enhance teacher content knowledge and instructional skills, including to accommodate the delivery of digital and blended learning and curriculum and engage students with technology;
 - e. Align with state and local academic standards;
 - f. Provide opportunities to build professional relationships, foster collaboration among principals and staff who provide instruction and provide opportunities for teacher-to-teacher mentoring;
 - g. Align with the plan, if any, of the district or site for an alternative teacher professional pay system;
 - h. Provide teachers of English learners, including English as a second language, and content teachers with differentiated instructional strategies critical for ensuring students long-term academic success, the means to effectively use assessment data on the academic literacy, oral academic language and English language development of English learners and skills to support native and English language development across the curriculum; and
 - i. Provide opportunities for staff to learn about current workforce trends, the connections between workforce trends and postsecondary education and training options, including career and technical education options.
7. Staff development training activities may include curriculum development and curriculum training programs and activities that provide teachers and other members of site-based teams training to enhance team performance.

8. The school district may implement other staff development activities required by law and activities associated with professional licensed educator compensation models.
- C. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will assist Building Leadership Teams in developing a site plan consistent with the goals and outcomes of the Staff Development Plan.
- D. In addition to developing a Staff Development Plan, the district also must develop teacher mentoring programs for teachers new to the profession or school district, including teaching residents, teachers of color, teachers who are American Indian, teachers in license shortage areas, teachers with special needs or experienced teachers in need of peer coaching. Teacher mentoring programs must be included in or aligned with the school district's teacher evaluation and peer review processes under Minnesota Statutes sections 122A.40, subdivision 8 or 122A.41, subdivision 5.
- E. The Advisory Staff Development Committee shall assist the school district in preparing any reports required by the Department of Education relating to staff development or teacher mentoring including, but not limited to, the reports referenced in Section VII. Below.

IV. DUTIES OF THE BUILDING LEADERSHIP TEAM

- A. Each Building Leadership Team shall develop a site plan, consistent with the goals of the Staff Development Plan. The school board will review the site plans for consistency with the Staff Development Plan each year.
- B. The Building Leadership Team must demonstrate to the school board the extent to which staff at the site have met the outcomes of the Staff Development Plan. The sites will report to the School Board Curriculum/Policy Committee.
- C. If the school board determines that staff development outcomes are not being met, it may withhold a portion of the initial allocation of revenue referenced in Section V. below.

V. STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

- A. Unless the school district is in statutory operating debt or a majority of the school board and a majority of its licensed teachers annually vote to waive the requirement to reserve basic revenue for staff development, the school district will reserve an amount equal to at least two percent of its basic revenue for:
 1. teacher development and evaluation under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.40, subdivision 8 or 122A.41, subdivision 5;

2. principal development and evaluation under section 123B.147, subdivision 3;
3. professional development under section 122A.60;
4. in-service education for programs under section 120B.22, subdivision 2; and
5. teacher mentorship under section 122A.70, subdivision 1.

To the extent extra funds remain, staff development revenue may be used for development plans, including plans for challenging instructional activities and experiences under section 122A.60, and for curriculum development and programs, other in-service education, teacher's workshops, teacher conferences, the cost of substitute teachers for staff development purposes, preservice and in-service education for special education professionals and paraprofessionals and other related costs for staff development efforts. The school district also may use the revenue reserved for staff development for grants to the school district's teachers to pay for coursework and training leading to certification as either a college in the schools teacher or a concurrent enrolment teacher. To receive a grant, the teacher must be enrolled in a program that includes coursework and training focused on teaching a core subject.

- B. The school district may, in its discretion, expend an additional amount of unreserved revenue for staff development based on its needs.
- C. Release time provided for teachers to supervise students on field trips and school activities, or independent tasks not associated with enhancing the teacher's knowledge and instructional skills, such as preparing report cards, calculating grades or organizing classroom materials, may not be counted as staff development time that is financed with staff development reserved revenue under Minnesota Statutes section 122A.61.
- D. The school district may use staff development revenue, special grant programs established by the legislature or another funding source to pay a stipend to a mentor who may be a current or former teacher who has taught at least three (3) years and is not on an improvement plan. Other initiatives using such funds, or funds available under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.861 and 124D.862, may include:
 1. additional stipends as incentives to mentors of color or who are American Indian;
 2. financial supports for professional learning community affinity groups across schools within and between districts for teachers from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to come together throughout the school year;

3. programs for induction aligned with the school district or school mentorship program during the first three (3) years of teaching, especially for teachers from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; or
4. grants supporting licensed and nonlicensed educator participation in professional development, such as workshops and graduate courses, related to increasing student achievement for students of color and American Indian students in order to close opportunity and achievement gaps.

To the extent the school district reserves a grant for any of the above purposes, it will negotiate additional retention strategies or protection from unrequested leave of absences in the beginning years of employment for teachers of color and teachers who are American Indian. Retention strategies may include providing financial incentives for teachers of color and teachers who are American Indian to work in the school or district for at least five (5) years and placing American Indian educators at sites with other American Indian educators and educators of color at sites with other educators of color to reduce isolation and increase opportunities for collegial support.

VI. PROCEDURE FOR USE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

- A. On a yearly basis, the District Office shall prepare a projected budget setting forth proposals for allocating staff development and mentoring funds reserved for each school site. Building Leadership Teams shall create the site budget including, but not limited to, projections as to the cost of building site training programs, costs of individual staff seminars and cost of substitutes.
 1. The school district will determine the revenues available for staff development in accordance with Minnesota State Statute. These funds will be placed in reserve for staff development.
 2. All unused funds will be part of the district staff development reserve funds and will not be carried over.
- B. Upon arrival of the budget by the school board, the Building Leadership Teams shall be responsible for monitoring the use of such funds in accordance with the Staff Development Plan and budget. The requested use of staff development funds must meet or make progress toward the goals and objectives of the Staff Development Plan.
- C. Individual requests from staff for leave to attend staff development activities shall be submitted to the Building Leadership Team and reviewed according to school district policy, staff procedures, contractual agreement and the effect on school district operations. Failure to timely submit such requests may be cause for the denial of the request.

VII. REPORTING

- A. The school district and Building Leadership Teams shall prepare a report of the previous fiscal year's staff development activities and expenditures as part of the school district's World's Best Workforce report.
1. The report must include assessment and evaluation data indicating progress toward district and site staff development goals based on teaching and learning outcomes.
 2. The report will provide a breakdown of expenditures for:
 - a. Curriculum development and curriculum training programs;
 - b. Staff development training models, workshops and conferences; and
 - c. The cost of releasing teachers or providing substitute teachers for staff development purposes.

The report also must indicate whether the expenditures were incurred at the district level or the school site level. These expenditures must be reported using the uniform financial and accounting and reporting standards (UFARS).
- B. To the extent the school district receives a grant for mentorship activities described in Section V.D., by June 30 of each year after receiving a grant, the site staff development committee must submit a report to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board on program efforts that describes mentoring and induction activities and assesses the impact of these programs on teacher effectiveness and retention.

Legal References:

- Minn. Stat. § 120A.41 (Length of School Year; Days of Instruction)
 Minn. Stat. § 120A.415 (Extended School Calendar)
 Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)
 Minn. Stat. § 120B.22, Subd. 2 (Violence Prevention Education)
 Minn. Stat. § 122A.187, Subd. 4 (Expiration and Renewal)
 Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subds. 7, 7a and 8 (Employment; Contracts; Termination - Additional Staff Development and Salary)
 Minn. Stat. § 122A.41, Subds. 4, 4a and 5 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions - Additional Staff Development and Salary)
 Minn. Stat. § 122A.60 (Staff Development Program)
 Minn. Stat. § 122A.61 (Reserved Revenue for Staff Development)
 Minn. Stat. § 122A.70 (Teacher Mentorship and Retention of Effective Teachers)
 Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, subd. 3 (Principals)
 Minn. Stat. § 124D.861 (Achievement and Integration for Minnesota)
 Minn. Stat. § 124D.862 (Achievement and Integration Revenue)
 Minn. Stat. § 126C.10, Subds. 2 and 2b (General Education Revenue)

Minn. Stat. § 126C.13, Subd. 5 (General Education Levy and Aid)

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