

Adopted from MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618, Orig. 1998, Rev. 2023

Approved: 4/20/23 by Board of Directors

Revised: 1/18/2024 by Board of Directors

**BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL
POLICY 618
ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to institute a process for the establishment and revision of assessments to measure achievement toward meeting the Minnesota Academic Standards, track academic progress over time, and provide Minnesota graduates information related to career and college readiness.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Bluffview Montessori School has established a procedure by which students shall complete Graduation Requirements. This procedure includes the adoption of performance assessment tools to be used in measuring student performance. Bluffview Montessori School strives to enhance student achievement of **Graduation Requirements**.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Academic standard” means a summary description of student learning in a required content area or elective content area.
- B. “Benchmark” means the specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band.
- C. “Career and college ready,” for purposes of statewide accountability, means a high school graduate has the knowledge, skills, and competencies to successfully pursue a career pathway, including postsecondary credit leading to a degree, diploma, certificate, or industry-recognized credential and employment. Students who are career and college ready are able to successfully complete credit-bearing coursework at a two- or four-year college or university or other credit-bearing postsecondary program without need of remediation.
- D. “Cultural competence,” for purposes of statewide accountability, means the ability and will to interact effectively with people of different cultures, native languages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- E. “Elective standards” means a locally adopted expectation for student learning in career and technical education and world languages.

- F. “Experiential learning” means learning for students that includes career exploration through a specific class or course or through work-based experiences such as job shadowing, mentoring, entrepreneurship, service learning, volunteering, internships, or other cooperative work experience, youth apprenticeship, or employment.
- G. “Required standard” means (1) a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and the arts, and (2) a locally adopted expectation for student learning in health.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

- A. The Head of School and the Pedagogy Committee shall establish criteria by which student performance of local academic standards and elective standards are to be evaluated and approved. The criteria will be submitted to the school board for approval. Upon approval by the school board, the criteria shall be deemed part of this policy.
- B. The Head of School shall ensure that students and parents or guardians are provided with notice of the process by which academic standards will be assessed.
- C. Staff members will be expected to utilize staff development opportunities to the extent necessary to ensure effective implementation and continued improvement of the implementation of assessments under the Minnesota Academic Standards.

V. STANDARDS FOR MINNESOTA ACADEMIC STANDARDS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

A. Benchmarks

Bluffview Montessori School will offer and students must achieve all benchmarks for an academic standard to satisfactorily complete that state standard. These benchmarks will be used by Bluffview Montessori School and its staff in developing tests to measure student academic knowledge and skills.

B. Statewide Academic Standards Testing

- 1. Bluffview Montessori School will utilize statewide assessments developed from and aligned with the state’s required academic standards as these tests become available to evaluate student progress toward career and college readiness in the context of the state’s academic standards.

2. Bluffview Montessori School will administer annually, in accordance with the process determined by the Minnesota Department of Education, the state-constructed tests aligned with state standards to all students in grades 3 through 8 and at the high school level as follows:
 - a. computer-adaptive reading and mathematics assessments in grades 3 through 8;
 - b. high school reading in grade 10, mathematics in grade 11, and a high school writing test, when it becomes available; and
 - c. science assessments in one grade in the grades 3 through 5 span, the grades 6 through 8 span, and a life science assessment in the grades 9 through 12 span (a passing score on high school science assessments is not a condition of receiving a diploma).
3. Bluffview Montessori School will develop and administer locally constructed assessments in social studies, health and physical education, and the arts to determine if a student has met the required academic standards in these areas.
4. Bluffview Montessori School may use a student's performance on a statewide assessment as one of the multiple criteria to determine grade promotion or retention.
5. For students in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, Bluffview Montessori School must record on the high school transcript a student's progress toward career and college readiness. For other students, this record of progress must be made as soon as practicable. In addition, Bluffview Montessori School may include a notation of high achievement on the high school diplomas of those graduating seniors who, according to established school board criteria, demonstrate exemplary academic achievement during high school.

C. Student Participation

1. The Minnesota Commissioner of Education must create and publish a form for parents and guardians that:
 - a. explains the need for state academic standards;

- b. identifies the state assessments that are aligned with state standards;
 - c. identifies the consequences, if any, the school or student may face if a student does not participate in state or locally required standardized assessments;
 - d. states that students who receive a college ready benchmark on the high school Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment are not required to take a remedial, non credit course at a Minnesota state college or university in the corresponding subject area; (does not apply, K-8 school only)
 - e. summarizes the provisions in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.301(a) and (c); and
 - f. notifies a parent of the right to not have the parent's child participate in the state and locally required assessments and asks a parent that chooses to not have a child participate in the assessments the basis for the decision.
2. Bluffview Montessori School must post the form created by the Commissioner on the Bluffview Montessori School website and include it in Bluffview Montessori School's student handbook.

VI. CAREER EXPLORATION ASSESSMENT

- A. Student assessments, in alignment with state academic standards, shall include clearly defined career and college readiness benchmarks and satisfy Minnesota's postsecondary admissions requirements. Achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing must also be assessed. When administering formative or summative assessments used to measure the academic progress, including the oral academic development, of English learners and inform their instruction, schools must ensure that the assessments are accessible to the students and students have the modifications and supports they need to sufficiently understand the assessments.
- B. On an annual basis, Bluffview Montessori School must use the career exploration elements in these assessments, beginning no later than grade 8, to help students and their families explore and plan for postsecondary education or careers based on the students' interests, aptitudes, and aspirations. Bluffview Montessori School must use timely regional labor market information and partnerships, among other resources, to help students and their families successfully develop, pursue, review, and revise an individualized plan for postsecondary education or a career.

This process must help increase students' engagement in and connection to school, improve students' knowledge and skills, and deepen students' understanding of career pathways as a sequence of academic and career courses that lead to an industry-recognized credential, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree and are available to all students, whatever their interests and career goals.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.022 (Elective Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (Benchmarks)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.31 (System Accountability and Statistical Adjustments)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0640-3501.0655 (Academic Standards for Language Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0700-3501.0745 (Academic Standards for Mathematics)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0960 (Academic Standards in Science)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1300-3501.1345 (Academic Standards for Social Studies)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1400-3501.1410 (Academic Standards for Physical Education)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
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 616 (School District System Accountability)