

**BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL
POLICY 603
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for continuous review and improvement of the school curriculum.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Curriculum development shall be directed toward the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the education program of Bluffview Montessori School.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The Head of School shall be responsible for curriculum development and for determining the most effective way of conducting research on Bluffview Montessori School's curriculum needs and establishing a long range curriculum development program. Timelines shall be determined by the Head of School that will provide for periodic reviews of each curriculum area.

IV. District Advisory Committee

- A. The school board shall establish an advisory committee to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.
- B. The Bluffview Montessori School advisory committee, to the extent possible, shall reflect the diversity of the district and its school sites, include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents, and provide translation to the extent appropriate and practicable. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents shall comprise at least two-thirds of advisory committee members.
- C. The Bluffview Montessori School advisory committee shall pursue community support to accelerate the academic and native literacy and achievement of English learners with varied needs, from young children to adults, consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 124D.59, subdivisions 2 and 2a.

- D. Bluffview Montessori School may establish site teams as subcommittees of the district advisory committee.
- E. The Bluffview Montessori School advisory committee shall recommend to the school board:
 - 1. rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals and measures consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.11, subdivision 1a, section 120B.022, subdivisions 1a and 1b, and section 120B.35,
 - 2. district assessments,
 - 3. means to improve students' equitable access to effective and more diverse teachers, and
 - 4. program evaluations.
- F. School sites may expand upon Bluffview Montessori School evaluations of instruction, curriculum, assessments, or programs.
- ~~B. A Bluffview Montessori School advisory committee shall provide assistance at the request of the Head of School. The advisory committee membership shall be a reflection of the community and, to the extent possible, shall reflect the diversity of Bluffview Montessori School, and shall include parent, teacher, support staff, student, community residents, and administration representation, and shall provide translation to the extent appropriate and practicable. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents shall comprise at least two-thirds of advisory committee members.~~

V. School Site Team

Bluffview Montessori School must establish a site team to develop and implement strategies and educationally effective practices to improve instruction, curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site. The site team must include an equal number of teachers and administrators and at least one parent. The site team advises the board and the advisory committee in developing the annual budget and creates an instructional and curricular improvement plan to align curriculum with assessment of student progress and growth in meeting state and district academic standards.

VI. Curriculum Development Process

- A. Within the ongoing process of curriculum development, the following needs shall be addressed:
1. Provide for articulation of courses of study from preschool through grade twelve.
 2. Identify minimum objectives for each course and at each elementary grade level.
 3. Provide for continuing evaluation of programs for the purpose of attaining Bluffview Montessori School objectives.
 4. Provide a program for ongoing monitoring of student progress.
 5. Provide for specific, particular, and special needs of all members of the student community.
 6. Develop a local literacy plan to have every child reading at or above grade level no later than the end of grade 3, including English learners, and teachers providing comprehensive, scientifically based reading instruction consistent with law.
 7. Integrate required and elective course standards in the scope and sequence of the Bluffview Montessori School curriculum.
 8. Meet all applicable requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education and federal law.
- B. Students identified as not reading at grade level by the end of kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia. Students in grade 3 or higher who demonstrate a reading difficulty to a classroom teacher must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia, unless a different reason for the reading difficulty has been identified. See [Minnesota Statutes section Minn. Stat. § 120B.12](#), Subd. 2.
- C. Students who do not meet or exceed Minnesota academic standards, as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school, shall be informed that admission to a public school is free and available to any resident under 21 years of age or who meets the requirements of [Minnesota Statutes section Minn. Stat. § 120A.20](#), Subd. 1(c). A student's plan under this section shall continue while the student is enrolled.

- D. The Head of School shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of all state-mandated curriculum changes, as well as recommended discretionary changes, and for periodically presenting recommended modifications for school board review and approval.
- E. The Head of School shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to curriculum development.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.10 (Findings; Improving Instruction and Curriculum)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Reading Proficiently No Later than the End of Grade 3)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125(f) (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment)
Minn. Rules Part 3500.0550 (Inclusive Educational Program)
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 ~~3501.0800-3501.0815~~ 3501.0820 (Academic Standards for the Arts)
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.0900-3501.0955 (Academic Standards in Science)
~~Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1000-3501.1190 (Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma) (repealed Minn. L. 2013, Ch. 116, Art. 2, § 22)~~
Minn. Rules Parts 3501.1200-3501.1210 (Academic Standards for English Language Development)
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 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
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)

~~MSBA/MASA Model Policy 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards)~~

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 619 (Staff Development for Standards)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 623 (Mandatory Summer School Instruction)