

208 DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to emphasize the importance of the policy-making role of the education district board and provide the means for it to continue to be an ongoing effort.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Formal guidelines are necessary to ensure the community that the education district system responds to its mission and operates in an effective, efficient, and consistent manner. A set of written policy statements shall be maintained and modified as needed. Policies should define the desire and intent of the education district board and should be in a form which is sufficiently explicit to guide administrative action.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY

- A. The education district board has jurisdiction to legislate policy for the education district with the force and effect of law. Education district board policy provides the general direction as to what the education district board wishes to accomplish while delegating implementation of policy to the administration.
- B. The education district board's written policies provide guidelines and goals to the community. The policies shall be the basis for the formulation of guidelines and directives by the administration. The education district board shall determine the effectiveness of the policies by evaluating periodic reports from the administration.
- C. Policies may be proposed by an education district board member, employee, student or residents of the education district member districts. Proposed policies or ideas shall be submitted to the executive director for review prior to possible placement on the education district board agenda.

IV. ADOPTION AND REVIEW OF POLICY

- A. The education district board shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two education district board meetings. The proposals shall be distributed and public comment will be allowed at both meetings prior to final education district board action.

- B. The final action taken to adopt the proposed policy shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the education district board at a subsequent meeting after the meetings at which public input was received. The policy will be effective on the later of the date of passage or the date stated in the motion.
- C. In an emergency, a new or modified policy may be adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the education district board in a single meeting. A statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The policy adopted in an emergency shall expire within one year following the emergency action unless the policy adoption procedure stated above is followed and the policy is reaffirmed. The education district board shall have discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation.
- D. If a policy is modified with minor changes that do not affect the substance of the policy or because of a legal change over which the education district board has no control, the modified policy may be approved at one meeting at the discretion of the education district board.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF AND ACCESS TO POLICY

- A. The executive director shall be responsible for implementing education district board policies, other than the policies that cover how the education district board will operate. The executive director shall develop administrative guidelines and directives to provide greater specificity and consistency in the process of implementation. These guidelines and directives, including employee and student handbooks, shall be subject to annual review and approval by the education district board.
- B. Each education district board member shall have access to this policy manual, and a copy shall be placed in the office of each education district attendance center. Manuals shall be available in the central office and made available for reference purposes to other interested persons.
- C. The executive director, employees designated by the executive director, and individual education district board members shall be responsible for keeping the policy manuals current.
- D. The education district board shall review policies at least once every three years. The executive director shall be responsible for developing a system of periodic review, addressing approximately one third of the policies annually. In addition, the education district board shall review the following policies annually: 506 Student Discipline; 722 Public Data Requests and 806 Crisis Management Policy.

- E. When no education district board policy exists to provide guidance on a matter, the executive director is authorized to act appropriately under the circumstances keeping in mind the educational philosophy and financial condition of the education district. Under such circumstances, the executive director shall advise the education district board of the need for a policy and present a recommended policy to the education district board for approval.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 1 (School District Powers)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 1 (School Board Powers)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 305 (Policy Implementation)