

## **616 MTCS SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to focus public education strategies on a process which promotes higher academic achievement for all students and ensures broad-based community participation in decisions regarding implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Implementation of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law will require a new level of accountability for Minnesota Transitions Charter School (MTCS). MTCS will establish a system to transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards. MTCS also will establish a system to review and improve instruction, curriculum, and assessment which will include substantial input by students, parents or guardians, and local community members. MTCS will be accountable to 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 MTCS.
- B. “World’s best workforce” means striving to: meet school readiness goals ; 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. MTCS Goals**

- 1. The MTCS Board has established school-wide goals which provide broad direction for MTCS. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and federal law. The broad goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the MTCS Board. The MTCS Board shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the school district’s Advisory Committee.

2. The Advisory Committee created under Policy 603 (Curriculum Development) is established by the school board to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.
  3. The school-wide improvement goals should address recommendations identified through the Advisory Committee process. MTCS's goal setting process will include consideration of individual site goals. MTCS goals may be developed through an education effectiveness program, an evaluation of student progress committee, or through some other locally determined process.
- B. System for Reviewing All Instruction and Curriculum. Incorporated in the process will be analysis of MTCS'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 Minnesota Statutes section 123B.147, and teacher evaluations under Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40 or 122A.41.
- C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements
1. The Advisory Committee shall also advise the school board on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including K-12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities, and other related issues. Recommendations of the District Advisory Committee shall be published annually to the community. The school board shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update this policy at least annually.
  2. The MTCS Board shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at each school site meet federal expectations. If the MTCS Board determines that student achievement levels at a school site do not meet federal expectations and the site has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years, the Advisory Committee shall work with the school site to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels to meet federal expectations. The Advisory Committee may seek assistance from the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) (Commissioner) in developing a plan which must include parental involvement components. The educational assessment system component utilized by the MTCS Board to measure individual students' educational progress must be based, to the extent annual tests are administered, on indicators of current achievement that show growth relative to an individual student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide or districtwide assessments. The MTCS Board will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The MTCS Board must coordinate with MDE in evaluating school sites and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.

D. Comprehensive Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

1. Each school year, the Advisory Committee will meet to advise and assist MTCS in the implementation of MTCS system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process.
2. The Advisory Committee, working in cooperation with other committees of MTCS, will provide active community participation in:
  - a. Reviewing MTCS instructional and curriculum plan, with emphasis on implementing the Minnesota K-12 Graduation Standards;
  - b. Identifying annual instruction and curriculum improvement goals for recommendation to the MTCS Board;
  - c. Making recommendations regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure MTCS progress toward its goals;
  - d. Advising the MTCS Board about development of the annual budget.
3. The Advisory Committee shall meet the following criteria:
  - a. The Advisory Committee shall ensure active community participation in all planning for instruction and curriculum affecting Graduation Standards.
  - b. The Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the MTCS Board on MTCS-wide standards, assessments, and program evaluation.
  - c. Building teams may be established as subcommittees to develop and implement an education effectiveness plan and to carry out methods to improve instruction, curriculum, and assessments as well as methods to use technology in meeting MTCS improvement plan.
  - d. A local plan to evaluate student progress, using a local process, shall be used for developing a plan for assessment of student progress toward the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the Advisory Committee in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the MTCS Board.
4. Translation services should be provided to the extent appropriate and practicable.
5. The Advisory Committee shall engage in the following each year:

- Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the school board. -Month(s): Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum of the cycle content area.
- Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations.
- Present recommendations to the school board for its input and approval.

E. Evaluation of Student Progress Committee. A committee of professional staff shall develop a plan for assessment of student progress, the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the District Advisory Committee to review instruction and curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site. This plan shall annually be approved by the MTCS Board.

F. Reporting

1. Consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.36 subdivision.1, the school board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in the area, by mail, or by electronic means on the school district website. The school board shall hold an annual public meeting to review and revise, where appropriate, student achievement goals, local assessment revise, where appropriate, student achievement goals, local assessment outcomes, plans, strategies, and practices for improving curriculum and instruction and cultural competency and efforts to equitably distribute diverse, effective, experiences, and in-field teachers, 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 school board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. MTCS shall periodically survey affected constituencies in their native languages, where appropriate and practicable, about their connection to and level of satisfaction with school. MTCS shall include the results of this evaluation in its published reports and in its summary report to the Commissioner.
2. The school performance report for a school site and MTCS must include performance reporting information and calculate proficiency rates as required by the most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
3. MTCS must annually report its class size ratios by each grade to the commissioner of education in the form and manner specified by the commissioner.
4. MTCS must report whether programs funded with compensatory revenue are consistent with best practices demonstrated to improve student achievement.

***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota's Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.35 (Student Academic Achievement and Growth)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.36 (School Accountability)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40 (Employment; Contracts; Termination)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.04 (Site Decision Making; Individualized Learning Agreement; Other Agreements)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.147 (Principals)  
Minn. Stat. § 126C.12 (Learning and Development Revenue Amount and Use)  
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 3501.0900-3501.0955 (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:***