

FIT Academy

616 SCHOOL DISTRICT 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 the implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

FIT 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. FIT 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 school district.
- B. “Graduation Standards” means the credit requirements and Minnesota Academic Standards that school districts must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- C. “World’s best workforce” means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; 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. FIT Goals

1. The FIT Board of Directors (BOD), through the contract with its authorizer, has established school-wide goals which provide broad direction for FIT. Incorporated in these goals are the graduation and education standards contained in the Minnesota Academic Standards. The broad goals shall be reviewed annually and approved by the BOD and its authorizer. The BOD shall adopt annual goals based on the recommendations of the BOD’s Academics Committee.
2. The improvement goals should address recommendations identified by FIT’s authorizer and the BOD’s Academics Committee.

B. System for Reviewing All Instruction and Curriculum

Incorporated in the process will be analysis of FIT'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 Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, Subd. 3, and teacher evaluations under Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 8, or 122A.41, Subd. 5. This analysis and review shall be conducted annually.

C. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

1. The Director and the BOD's Academics Committee shall advise the BOD on implementation of the state and local graduation requirements, including K - 12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities, and other related issues. Recommendations of the Director and the BOD's Academics Committee shall be published annually to the FIT community. The BOD shall receive public input and comment and shall adopt or update this policy at least annually.
2. The BOD shall annually review and determine if student achievement levels at FIT meet all expectations. If the BOD determines that student achievement levels at FIT do not meet expectations and FIT has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years, the Director and Academics Committee of the BOD shall work with its authorizer to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels to meet expectations. The Director and Academics 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.
3. The educational assessment system component utilized by the BOD to measure individual students' educational progress must be based, to the extent annual tests are administered, on indicators of achievement growth that show an individual student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide assessments. The BOD will utilize models developed by the Commissioner for measuring individual student progress. The BOD must coordinate with MDE in evaluating FIT and continuous improvement plans, consistent with best practices.

D. Academics Committee's Role in the Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

1. By June 30th of each year, the Academics Committee will meet to advise and assist FIT in the implementation of the school's system accountability and comprehensive continuous improvement process.
2. The Academics Committee, working in cooperation with FIT's authorizer, will provide active community participation in:
 - a. Reviewing FIT's instructional and curriculum plan, with emphasis on implementing the Minnesota Graduation Standards;

- b. Identifying annual instruction and curriculum improvement goals for recommendation to the BOD;
 - c. Making recommendations regarding the evaluation process that will be used to measure FIT's progress toward its goals;
 - d. Advising the BOD about development of the annual budget.
3. The Academics Committee shall meet the following criteria:
- a. The Academics Committee shall ensure active FIT community participation in all planning for instruction and curriculum affecting Graduation Standards.
 - b. The Academics Committee shall make recommendations to the BOD on school-wide standards, assessments, and program evaluation.
 - c. Departmental 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 FIT's improvement plan.
 - d. A school 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 Academics Committee in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the BOD.
4. The Academics Committee shall, when possible, be comprised of two-thirds school community representatives and shall reflect the diversity of the FIT community. Whenever possible, included in its membership should be:
- a. The Director of Curriculum (or similar educational leader)
 - b. Director
 - c. BOD Member
 - d. Student Representative
 - e. One teacher from each department or instructional level
 - f. Two parents and/or community members
 - g. School District Test Administrator (if different from "a." above)
5. Annually, the Academics Committee shall meet and complete the following:
- a. Organizational meeting of the Committee to review the authorizing legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee as determined by the BOD.
 - b. Agree on the process to be used. Become familiar with the instruction and curriculum of the cycle content area.
 - c. Review evaluation results and prepare recommendations.
 - d. Present recommendations to the BOD 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 toward the Graduation Standards, as well as program evaluation data for use by the

Academics Committee in the instruction and curriculum review process. This plan shall annually be approved by the BOD.

F. Educational Planning and Assessment System

FIT may elect to participate in programs or use various outside consultants to provide a longitudinal, systematic approach to student educational and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation.

G. Reporting

Consistent with Minn. Stat. § 120B.36, Subd. 1, the BOD shall publish a report on the FIT website. The BOD shall hold an annual public meeting to review and revise, where appropriate, student achievement goals, local assessment outcomes, plans, strategies, and practices for improving curriculum and instruction, and to review school success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to the world's best workforce. The BOD must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the Commissioner in the form and manner the Commissioner determines. FIT shall periodically survey affected constituencies about their connection to, and level of satisfaction with, the school. FIT shall include the results of this evaluation in its summary report to the Commissioner.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations for Minnesota's Students)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.018 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.128 (Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) Program)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.35 (Student Achievement Levels)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.36 (School Accountability; Appeals Process)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 8 (Employment; Contracts; Termination)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41, Subd. 5 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.04 (Site Decision Making Agreement)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, Subd. 3 (Principals)
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 (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)

Cross References: FIT Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)
FIT Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)
FIT Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
FIT Policy 614 (School District Testing Plan and Procedure)
FIT Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)
FIT Policy 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards)
FIT Policy 618 (Assessment of Student Achievement)
FIT Policy 619 (Staff Development for Standards)
FIT Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)