

Education Programs

Grade Level Configuration and Enrollment at School Sites

I. Purpose

This policy defines the organization of grade levels at district schools.

II. General Statement of Policy

The school district is committed to maintaining educational programs and services that are aligned from prekindergarten through grade 12. The district will establish a grade level organization that maximizes student learning and the district's facilities, while maintaining aligned educational programs and services.

III. Grade Level Organization

A. Effective July 1, 2017, grade level groupings will be as follows:

1. Early childhood options and programs available for prekindergarten
2. Elementary schools – Kindergarten through Grade 5
3. Middle schools – Grades 6-8
4. High school – Grades 9-12

B. School principals will work collaboratively to create a smooth learning transition for students and their families as the students advance from one school to another school.

C. The school board encourages creative options that enhance an aligned educational delivery system. The school board will approve all grade configurations that vary from the traditional grade level organization. The proposals may require additional start-up expenses, but will provide services at an expenditure level comparable to the approved grade level organization. The proposed configurations must align to the mission of the schools, meet all state and local educational requirements, and provide rationale and research for the modification.

D. The school board has approved the following choice programs within the grade level configurations:

1. Normandale Elementary School – Grades K-5 French Immersion

2. Countryside Elementary School – Grades K-5 Continuous Progress for five sections
3. Highlands Elementary School – Grades K-5 Continuous Progress for eight sections
4. The choice programs are required to adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. No additional district funding will be provided for school-specific programs and services.
 - b. School board approval is required to use nondistrict funds for specialized programs and services at the choice schools.
 - c. The academic standards and curriculum will be implemented, though flexibility in the instructional content and materials and the instructional approach and delivery will be flexible. These modifications will be approved by the director of teaching and learning.
 - d. Student enrollment guidelines may be modified in accordance with Policy 509 (Resident Enrollment) and will be an appendix to the policy.
 - e. Class size guidelines may be modified with the approval of the School Board to gain additional staffing full-time equivalents (FTE) as compared to other elementary schools.
 - f. All district policies and work agreements will be followed. Preapproval of any modifications to policies or work agreements must be received by the School Board and/or the appropriate employee group.

IV. Enrollment

- A. The administration will follow Policies 509 (Resident Enrollment) and 510 (Nonresident Enrollment) when enrolling students into a school.
- B. Kindergarten is defined as a program designed for students who are five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year commences that prepares students to enter first grade the following year. Children who are five years of age on or before September 1 of the school year may enroll in kindergarten. The administration will follow Policy 513 (Student Promotion, Acceleration, Retention and Early Kindergarten Admission) for early kindergarten admission.

- C. Preschool is defined as a program designed for students younger than five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year commences that prepares students to enter kindergarten the following year.
- D. The administration may arrange appropriate conferences involving a student for whom graduation appears distant at age 16 to determine if continuation in the school district is in his/her best interest, established in Policy 513 (Student Promotion, Acceleration, Retention and Early Kindergarten Admission). This conference will include the student, his/her parents/guardians and school personnel. The district will work collaboratively with the student in the best interest of the student and his/her future.

Cross References:

Policy 509 (Resident Enrollment)

Policy 510 (Nonresident Enrollment)

Policy 513 (Student Promotion, Acceleration, Retention and Early Kindergarten Admission)

Policy

adopted: 7/20/09

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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273

Edina, Minnesota