

CHAPTER 120B

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

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120B.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this chapter, the words defined in section 120A.05 have the same meanings.

History: 1998 c 397 art 3 s 1; art 11 s 3

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

120B.018 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The definitions in this section apply to this chapter.

Subd. 2. **Academic standard.** "Academic standard" means a summary description of student learning in a required content area under section 120B.021 or elective content area under section 120B.022.

Subd. 3. **Benchmark.** "Benchmark" means specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band.

Subd. 4. **Credit.** "Credit" means the determination by the local school district that a student has successfully completed an academic year of study or mastered the applicable subject matter.

Subd. 5. **Elective standard.** "Elective standard" means a locally adopted expectation for student learning in career and technical education and world languages.

Subd. 6. **Required standard.** "Required standard" means a statewide adopted expectation for student learning in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, health, and the arts. Locally developed academic standards in health apply until statewide rules implementing statewide health standards under section 120B.021, subdivision 3, are required to be implemented in the classroom.

History: 2013 c 116 art 2 s 1; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 3; 2024 c 115 art 2 s 1

120B.019 [Repealed, 2012 c 239 art 2 s 21]

120B.02 EDUCATIONAL EXPECTATIONS AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MINNESOTA'S STUDENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Educational expectations.** (a) The legislature is committed to establishing rigorous academic standards for Minnesota's public school students. To that end, the commissioner shall adopt in rule statewide academic standards. The commissioner shall not prescribe in rule or otherwise the delivery system, classroom assessments, or form of instruction that school sites must use.

(b) All commissioner actions regarding the rule must be premised on the following:

(1) the rule is intended to raise academic expectations for students, teachers, and schools;

(2) any state action regarding the rule must evidence consideration of school district autonomy; and

(3) the Department of Education, with the assistance of school districts, must make available information about all state initiatives related to the rule to students and parents, teachers, and the general public in a timely format that is appropriate, comprehensive, and readily understandable.

(c) The commissioner shall periodically review and report on the state's assessment process.

(d) School districts are not required to adopt specific provisions of the federal School-to-Work programs.

Subd. 2. **Graduation requirements.** (a) To graduate from high school, students must demonstrate to their enrolling school district or school their satisfactory completion of the credit requirements under section 120B.024 and their understanding of academic standards. A school district must adopt graduation requirements that meet or exceed state graduation requirements established in law or rule.

(b) Students ages 19 to 21 who have not yet graduated from a Minnesota high school and, but for their age, are otherwise eligible to participate in an adult basic education program may be admitted to an adult high school diploma program under section 124D.52, subdivisions 8 and 9.

Subd. 3. MS 2022 [Repealed, 2023 c 55 art 2 s 66]

History: *Ex*1959 c 71 art 2 s 11; 1965 c 718 s 1; 1969 c 9 s 23,24; 1969 c 288 s 1; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1975 c 162 s 6,7; 1976 c 271 s 21; 1977 c 347 s 19; 1977 c 447 art 7 s 4; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1982 c 548 art 4 s 4,23; 1983 c 258 s 22; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1987 c 178 s 5; 1987 c 398 art 7 s 5; 1989 c 329 art 7 s 2; art 8 s 1; art 9 s 4; 1990 c 375 s 3; 1991 c 265 art 9 s 13; 1993 c 224 art 12 s 2-6; art 14 s 4; 1994 c 647 art 7 s 1; art 8 s 1; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 7 s 1; art 16 s 13; 1996 c 412 art 7 s 1; 1997 c 1 s 1; 1997 c 162 art 2 s 11; 1998 c 397 art 4 s 1,51; art 11 s 3; 1998 c 398 art 5 s 6,7,55; 2000 c 500 s 2; 2003 c 129 art 1 s 2; 2003 c 130 s 12; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 4; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 3; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 2; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 3 s 1; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 3

120B.021 REQUIRED ACADEMIC STANDARDS.

Subdivision 1. **Required academic standards.** (a) The following subject areas are required for statewide accountability:

- (1) language arts;
- (2) mathematics, encompassing algebra II, integrated mathematics III, or an equivalent in high school, and to be prepared for the three credits of mathematics in grades 9 through 12, the grade 8 standards include completion of algebra;
- (3) science, including earth and space science, life science, and the physical sciences, including chemistry and physics;
- (4) social studies, including history, geography, economics, and government and citizenship that includes civics;
- (5) physical education;
- (6) health; and
- (7) the arts. Public elementary and middle schools must offer at least three and require at least two of the following five arts areas: dance; media arts; music; theater; and visual arts. Public high schools must offer at least three and require at least one of the following five arts areas: media arts; dance; music; theater; and visual arts.

(b) For purposes of applicable federal law, the academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all public school students, except the very few students with extreme cognitive or physical impairments for whom an individualized education program team has determined that the required academic standards are inappropriate. An individualized education program team that makes this determination must establish alternative standards.

(c) A school district may include child sexual abuse prevention instruction in a health curriculum, consistent with paragraph (a), clause (6). Child sexual abuse prevention instruction may include age-appropriate instruction on recognizing sexual abuse and assault, boundary violations, and ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, as well as strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame, and mobilize bystanders. A school district may provide instruction under this paragraph in a variety of ways, including

at an annual assembly or classroom presentation. A school district may also provide parents information on the warning signs of child sexual abuse and available resources.

(d) District efforts to develop, implement, or improve instruction or curriculum as a result of the provisions of this section must be consistent with sections 120B.10, 120B.11, and 120B.20.

(e) Locally developed academic standards in health apply until statewide rules implementing statewide health standards under subdivision 3 are required to be implemented in the classroom.

Subd. 1a. **Rigorous course of study; waiver.** (a) Upon receiving a student's application signed by the student's parent or guardian, a school district, area learning center, or charter school must declare that a student meets or exceeds a specific academic standard required for graduation under section 120B.02 and this section if the local school board, the school board of the school district in which the area learning center is located, or the charter school board of directors determines that the student:

(1) is participating in a course of study, including an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or program; a learning opportunity outside the curriculum of the district, area learning center, or charter school; or an approved preparatory program for employment or postsecondary education that is equally or more rigorous than the corresponding state or local academic standard required by the district, area learning center, or charter school;

(2) would be precluded from participating in the rigorous course of study, learning opportunity, or preparatory employment or postsecondary education program if the student were required to achieve the academic standard to be waived; and

(3) satisfactorily completes the requirements for the rigorous course of study, learning opportunity, or preparatory employment or postsecondary education program.

Consistent with the requirements of this section, the local school board, the school board of the school district in which the area learning center is located, or the charter school board of directors also may formally determine other circumstances in which to declare that a student meets or exceeds a specific academic standard that the site requires for graduation under section 120B.02 and this section.

(b) A student who satisfactorily completes a postsecondary enrollment options course or program under section 124D.09, or an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or program under section 120B.13, is not required to complete other requirements of the academic standards corresponding to that specific rigorous course of study.

Subd. 2. **Standards development.** (a) The commissioner must consider advice from at least the following stakeholders in developing statewide rigorous core academic standards in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, including history, geography, economics, government and citizenship, health, and the arts:

(1) parents of school-age children and members of the public throughout the state;

(2) teachers throughout the state currently licensed and providing instruction in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health, or the arts and licensed elementary and secondary school principals throughout the state currently administering a school site;

(3) currently serving members of local school boards and charter school boards throughout the state;

(4) faculty teaching core subjects at postsecondary institutions in Minnesota;

(5) representatives of the Minnesota business community;

(6) representatives from the Tribal Nations Education Committee and Tribal Nations and communities in Minnesota, including both Anishinaabe and Dakota; and

(7) current students, with input from the Minnesota Youth Council.

(b) Academic standards must:

(1) be clear, concise, objective, measurable, and grade-level appropriate;

(2) not require a specific teaching methodology or curriculum; and

(3) be consistent with the Constitutions of the United States and the state of Minnesota.

Subd. 3. **Rulemaking.** (a) The commissioner, consistent with the requirements of this section and section 120B.022, must adopt statewide rules under section 14.389 for implementing statewide rigorous core academic standards in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and the arts.

(b) The commissioner must adopt statewide rules for implementing statewide rigorous core academic standards in health.

Subd. 4. **Revisions and reviews required.** (a) The commissioner of education must revise the state's academic standards and graduation requirements and implement a ten-year cycle to review and, consistent with the review, revise state academic standards and related benchmarks, consistent with this subdivision. During each ten-year review and revision cycle, the commissioner also must examine the alignment of each required academic standard and related benchmark with the knowledge and skills students need for career and college readiness and advanced work in the particular subject area. The commissioner must include the contributions of Minnesota American Indian Tribes and communities, including urban Indigenous communities, as related to the academic standards during the review and revision of the required academic standards. The commissioner must embed Indigenous education for all students consistent with recommendations from Tribal Nations and urban Indigenous communities in Minnesota regarding the contributions of American Indian Tribes and communities in Minnesota into the state's academic standards during the review and revision of the required academic standards. The recommendations to embed Indigenous education for all students includes but is not limited to American Indian experiences in Minnesota, including Tribal histories, Indigenous languages, sovereignty issues, cultures, treaty rights, governments, socioeconomic experiences, contemporary issues, and current events.

(b) The commissioner must ensure that the statewide mathematics assessments administered to students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 are aligned with the state academic standards in mathematics, consistent with section 120B.302, subdivision 3, paragraph (a). The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in mathematics beginning in the 2021-2022 school year and every ten years thereafter.

(c) The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in arts beginning in the 2017-2018 school year and every ten years thereafter.

(d) The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in science beginning in the 2018-2019 school year and every ten years thereafter.

(e) The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in language arts beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and every ten years thereafter.

(f) The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in social studies beginning in the 2020-2021 school year and every ten years thereafter.

(g) The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in physical education beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and every ten years thereafter.

(h) The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in health education beginning in the 2034-2035 school year and every ten years thereafter.

(i) School districts and charter schools must revise and align local academic standards and high school graduation requirements in world languages and career and technical education to require students to complete the revised standards beginning in a school year determined by the school district or charter school. School districts and charter schools must formally establish a periodic review cycle for the academic standards and related benchmarks in world languages and career and technical education.

(j) The commissioner of education must embed technology and information literacy standards consistent with recommendations from school media specialists into the state's academic standards and graduation requirements.

(k) The commissioner of education must embed ethnic studies as related to the academic standards during the review and revision of the required academic standards.

Subd. 5. **Indigenous education for all students.** To support implementation of Indigenous education for all students, the commissioner must:

(1) provide historically accurate, Tribally endorsed, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and developmentally appropriate resources. Resources to implement standards must include professional development and must demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the importance of accurate, high-quality materials about the histories, languages, cultures, and governments of local Tribes;

(2) provide resources to support all students learning about the histories, languages, cultures, governments, and experiences of their American Indian peers and neighbors. Resources to implement standards across content areas must be developed to authentically engage all students and support successful learning; and

(3) conduct a needs assessment by December 31, 2023. The needs assessment must fully inform the development of future resources for Indigenous education for all students by using information from American Indian Tribes and communities in Minnesota, including urban Indigenous communities, Minnesota's Tribal Nations Education Committee, schools and districts, students, and educational organizations. The commissioner must submit a report on the findings and recommendations from the needs assessment to the chairs and ranking minority members of legislative committees with jurisdiction over education; to the American Indian Tribes and communities in Minnesota, including urban Indigenous communities; and to all schools and districts in the state by February 1, 2024. The commissioner of education must consult with Tribal Nations located in Minnesota and Minnesota's Tribal Nations Education Committee about the need for additional funding necessary for each Tribal Nation located in Minnesota to continue developing resources for Indigenous education for all students. By February 15, 2025, the commissioner must provide links to the materials developed by the Tribal Nations on its website and submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over education highlighting the materials that have been developed and documenting the need for additional resources. A consultation under this section does not replace or limit any consultation required under section 10.65.

History: 2003 c 129 art 1 s 3; 2004 c 294 art 2 s 2; art 5 s 1; art 6 s 1; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 5; 2006 c 263 art 2 s 2; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 3; 2010 c 396 s 1; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 3 s 12; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 3,21; 2014 c 272 art 3 s 3; 2014 c 275 art 1 s 16; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 3 s 2; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 4-6; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s

2,3; 2023 c 17 s 1; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 4,5,65; art 4 s 3-5; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 3; 2024 c 115 art 2 s 2-5; art 4 s 1

120B.022 ELECTIVE STANDARDS.

Subdivision 1. **Elective standards.** A district must establish and regularly review its own standards for career and technical education (CTE) programs. Standards must align with CTE frameworks developed by the Department of Education, standards developed by national CTE organizations, or recognized industry standards. A district must use the current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. A school district must offer courses in all elective subject areas.

Subd. 1a. **World language and culture; proficiency certificates.** (a) World languages teachers and other school staff should develop and implement world languages programs that acknowledge and reinforce the language proficiency and cultural awareness that non-English language speakers already possess, and encourage students' proficiency in multiple world languages. Programs under this section must encompass Indigenous American Indian languages and cultures, among other world languages and cultures. The department shall consult with postsecondary institutions in developing related professional development opportunities for purposes of this section.

(b) Any Minnesota public, charter, or nonpublic school may award Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificates consistent with this subdivision.

(c) The Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificate recognizes students who demonstrate an overall intermediate-low or intermediate-mid level of proficiency on the ACTFL's scale of levels of proficiency. A student's level of proficiency is derived from assessment in the domains of listening, reading, speaking, and writing on a valid and reliable assessment tool.

Subd. 1b. **State bilingual and multilingual seals.** (a) Consistent with efforts to strive for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness under sections 120B.11 and 124E.03, subdivision 2, paragraph (i), and close the academic achievement and opportunity gap under sections 124D.861 and 124D.862, voluntary state bilingual and multilingual seals are established to recognize graduating high school students in any school district, charter school, or nonpublic school who demonstrate particular levels of proficiency in one or more languages other than English. The levels of proficiency established under this subdivision are based on the ACTFL's proficiency guidelines. A student is eligible for a seal in a language other than English if the student demonstrates proficiency derived from assessment in the domains of listening, reading, speaking, and writing on an assessment aligned with ACTFL proficiency guidelines or on an equivalent valid and reliable assessment at a level required under paragraph (c). Indigenous American Indian languages and American Sign Language are languages other than English for purposes of this subdivision and world languages for purposes of subdivision 1a.

(b) In addition to paragraph (a), to be eligible to receive a seal students must satisfactorily complete all required English language arts credits.

(c) Consistent with this subdivision, a high school student who demonstrates an overall intermediate high ACTFL level of proficiency derived from assessment in the domains of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in one language in addition to English is eligible to receive the state bilingual gold seal. A high school student who demonstrates an overall intermediate high ACTFL level of proficiency derived from assessment in the domains of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in more than one language in addition to English is eligible to receive the state multilingual gold seal. A high school student who demonstrates an overall advanced-low or above ACTFL level of proficiency derived from assessment in the domains of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in one language in addition to English is eligible to receive the state

bilingual platinum seal. A high school student who demonstrates an overall advanced-low or above ACTFL level of proficiency derived from assessment in the domains of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in more than one language in addition to English is eligible to receive the state multilingual platinum seal.

(d) School districts and charter schools may give students periodic opportunities to demonstrate their level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a language in addition to English. Where valid and reliable assessments are unavailable, a school district or charter school may rely on evaluators trained in assessing under ACTFL proficiency guidelines to assess a student's level of non-English language proficiency under this section. School districts and charter schools must maintain appropriate records to identify high school students eligible to receive the state bilingual or multilingual gold and platinum seals upon graduation. The school district or charter school must notate the appropriate seal to the transcript of each high school student who meets the requirements of this subdivision and may affix the seal to the student's diploma. A school district or charter school must not charge the high school student a fee for this seal.

(e) A school district or charter school may award elective course credits in world languages to a student who demonstrates the requisite proficiency in a language other than English under this section.

(f) A school district or charter school may award community service credit to a student who demonstrates an overall intermediate high or above ACTFL level of proficiency derived from assessment in the domains of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in a language other than English and who participates in community service activities that are integrated into the curriculum, involve the participation of teachers, and support biliteracy in the school or local community.

(g) The commissioner must list on the web page the assessments that are aligned to ACTFL proficiency guidelines, and establish guidelines on interpreting the scores or ratings from approved assessments.

(h) By August 1, 2015, the colleges and universities of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system must establish criteria to translate the seals into college credits based on the world language course equivalencies identified by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities faculty and staff and, upon request from an enrolled student, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may award foreign language credits to a student who received a Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificate or Minnesota Bilingual or Multilingual Seals under subdivision 1a. A student who demonstrated the requisite level of language proficiency in grade 10, 11, or 12 to receive a seal or certificate and is enrolled in a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institution must request college credits for the student's seal or proficiency certificate within three academic years after graduating from high school. The University of Minnesota is encouraged to award students foreign language academic credits consistent with this paragraph.

Subd. 2. **Local assessments.** A district must use a locally selected assessment to determine if a student has achieved an elective standard.

History: 2003 c 129 art 1 s 4; 2004 c 294 art 2 s 3; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 4; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 4; 2011 c 76 art 1 s 11; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 3; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 2,3; art 3 s 3; art 4 s 10; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 4; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 6; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 4,5,31

120B.023 BENCHMARKS.

Subdivision 1. **Benchmarks implement, supplement statewide academic standards.** (a) The commissioner must supplement required state academic standards with grade-level benchmarks. High school career and college-ready benchmarks may cover more than one grade. Schools must offer and students must achieve all benchmarks for an academic standard to satisfactorily complete that state standard.

(b) The commissioner shall publish benchmarks in the State Register and transmit the benchmarks in any other manner that informs and guides parents, teachers, school districts, and other interested persons and makes them accessible to the general public. The commissioner must use benchmarks in developing career and college readiness assessments under section 120B.307. The commissioner may charge a reasonable fee for publications.

(c) Once established, the commissioner may change the benchmarks only with specific legislative authorization and after completing a review under section 120B.021, subdivision 4.

(d) The benchmarks are not subject to chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply.

Subd. 2. MS 2012 [Renumbered 120B.021, subd 4]

History: 2003 c 129 art 1 s 5; 2006 c 263 art 2 s 3; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 5; 2010 c 396 s 2; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 2 s 2; 2012 c 239 art 1 s 5; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 4,21; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 65

120B.024 CREDITS.

Subdivision 1. **Graduation requirements.** (a) Students must successfully complete the following high school level credits for graduation:

(1) four credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in English language arts;

(2) three credits of mathematics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;

(3) three credits of science, including one credit to satisfy all the earth and space science standards for grades 9 through 12, one credit to satisfy all the life science standards for grades 9 through 12, and one credit to satisfy all the chemistry or physics standards for grades 9 through 12;

(4) three and one-half credits of social studies, including credit for a course in government and citizenship in either grade 11 or 12 for students beginning grade 9 in the 2025-2026 school year and later or an advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other rigorous course on government and citizenship under section 120B.021, subdivision 1a, and a combination of other credits encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies;

(5) one credit of the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in the arts;

(6) credit sufficient to satisfy the state standards in physical education;

(7) credits sufficient to satisfy the state standards in health upon adoption of statewide rules for implementing health standards under section 120B.021; and

(8) a minimum of seven elective credits.

(b) Students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later must successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12. A teacher of a personal finance course that satisfies the graduation requirement must have a field license or out-of-field permission in agricultural education, business, family and consumer science, social studies, or math.

Subd. 2. **Credit equivalencies.** (a) A one-half credit of economics taught in a school's agricultural, food, and natural resources education or business education program or department may fulfill a one-half credit

in social studies under subdivision 1, clause (5), if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.

(b) An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under subdivision 1, clause (4), if the credit meets the state physical science, life science, earth and space science, chemistry, or physics academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the district. An agriculture or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics required under subdivision 1, clause (4), if the credit meets the state chemistry or physics academic standards as approved by the district. A student must satisfy either all of the chemistry academic standards or all of the physics academic standards prior to graduation. An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may not fulfill the required biology credit under subdivision 1, clause (4).

(c) A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement under subdivision 1, clause (2) or (6).

(d) An agricultural, food, and natural resources education teacher is not required to meet the requirements of Minnesota Rules, part 3505.1150, subpart 2, item B, to meet the credit equivalency requirements of paragraph (b) above.

(e) A computer science credit may fulfill a mathematics credit requirement under subdivision 1, clause (2), if the credit meets state academic standards in mathematics.

(f) A Project Lead the Way credit may fulfill a science or mathematics credit requirement under subdivision 1, clause (2) or (4), if the credit meets the state academic standards in science or mathematics.

(g) An ethnic studies course may fulfill a social studies, language arts, arts, math, or science credit if the course meets the applicable state academic standards. An ethnic studies course may fulfill an elective credit if the course meets applicable local standards or other requirements.

History: 2003 c 129 art 1 s 6; 2004 c 294 art 2 s 4; 2006 c 263 art 2 s 4; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 5; 2012 c 239 art 1 s 6; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 5; 2013 c 144 s 23; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 3 s 4; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 2 s 1; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 7,8; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 6; 2024 c 115 art 2 s 6

120B.026 PHYSICAL EDUCATION; EXCLUSION FROM CLASS; RECESS.

A student may be excused from a physical education class if the student submits written information signed by a physician stating that physical activity will jeopardize the student's health. A student may be excused from a physical education class if being excused meets the child's unique and individualized needs according to the child's individualized education program, federal 504 plan, or individualized health plan. A student may be excused if a parent or guardian requests an exemption on religious grounds. A student with a disability must be provided with modifications or adaptations that allow physical education class to meet their needs. Schools are strongly encouraged not to exclude students in kindergarten through grade 5 from recess due to punishment or disciplinary action.

History: 2016 c 189 art 25 s 7

120B.03 [Repealed, 2000 c 500 s 21]

120B.031 [Repealed, 2003 c 129 art 1 s 12]

120B.04 [Repealed, 2000 c 500 s 21]

120B.05 [Repealed, 1999 c 241 art 1 s 69]

120B.07 EARLY GRADUATION.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any secondary school student who has completed all required courses or standards may, with the approval of the student, the student's parent or guardian, and local school officials, graduate before the completion of the school year.

History: 1974 c 521 s 7; 1975 c 432 s 12; 1979 c 334 art 1 s 1; 1983 c 216 art 1 s 24; 1983 c 314 art 1 s 22; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 486 s 7; 1998 c 397 art 2 s 73,164; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 1 s 4; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 1 s 4; 2012 c 239 art 1 s 7

120B.08 [Repealed, 2013 c 116 art 1 s 59]

120B.09 [Repealed, 2013 c 116 art 1 s 59]

CURRICULUM

120B.10 FINDINGS; IMPROVING INSTRUCTION AND CURRICULUM.

The legislature finds that a process is needed to enable school boards and communities to decide matters related to planning, providing, and improving education instruction and curriculum in the context of the state's high school graduation standards. The process should help districts evaluate the impact of instruction and curriculum on students' abilities to meet graduation standards, use evaluation results to improve instruction and curriculum, and determine services that districts and other public education entities can provide collaboratively with institutions including families and private or public organizations and agencies. The legislature anticipates that a highly focused public education strategy will be an integral part of each district's review and improvement of instruction and curriculum.

History: 1996 c 412 art 7 s 3; 1998 c 397 art 6 s 124

120B.101 CURRICULUM.

No school district or charter school may discriminate against or discipline a teacher or principal on the basis of incorporating into curriculum contributions of persons in a federally protected class or state protected class when the included contribution is in alignment with standards and benchmarks adopted under sections 120B.021 and 120B.023.

History: 2023 c 55 art 5 s 2

120B.11 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCESS FOR REVIEWING CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GOALS; STRIVING FOR COMPREHENSIVE ACHIEVEMENT AND CIVIC READINESS.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section and section 120B.10, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(a) "Instruction" means methods of providing learning experiences that enable a student to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements including applied and experiential learning.

(b) "Curriculum" means district or school adopted programs and written plans for providing students with learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge and skills and career and college readiness.

(c) "Comprehensive achievement and civic readiness" 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; have all students graduate from high school; and prepare students to be lifelong learners.

(d) "Experiential learning" means learning for students that includes career exploration through a specific class or course or through work-based experiences such as job shadowing, mentoring, entrepreneurship, service learning, volunteering, internships, other cooperative work experience, youth apprenticeship, or employment.

(e) "Ethnic studies" as defined in section 120B.25 has the same meaning for purposes of this section. Ethnic studies curriculum may be integrated in existing curricular opportunities or provided through additional curricular offerings.

(f) "Antiracist" means actively working to identify and eliminate racism in all forms in order to change policies, behaviors, and beliefs that perpetuate racist ideas and actions.

(g) "Culturally sustaining" means integrating content and practices that infuse the culture and language of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities who have been and continue to be harmed and erased through the education system.

(h) "Institutional racism" means structures, policies, and practices within and across institutions that produce outcomes that disadvantage those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Subd. 1a. **Performance measures.** Measures to determine school district and school site progress in striving for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness must include at least:

(1) the size of the academic achievement gap, rigorous course taking under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), clause (2), and enrichment experiences by student subgroup;

(2) student performance on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments;

(3) high school graduation rates; and

(4) career and college readiness under section 120B.307.

Subd. 2. **Adopting plans and budgets.** (a) A school board, at a public meeting, must adopt a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with creating comprehensive achievement and civic readiness and includes:

(1) clearly defined district and school site goals and benchmarks for instruction and student achievement for all student subgroups identified in section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), clause (2);

(2) a process to assess and evaluate each student's progress toward meeting state and local academic standards, assess and identify students to participate in gifted and talented programs and accelerate their instruction, and adopt early-admission procedures consistent with section 120B.15, and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of instruction in pursuit of student and school success and curriculum affecting students' progress and growth toward career and college readiness and leading to comprehensive achievement and civic readiness;

(3) a system to periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all instruction and curriculum, taking into account strategies and best practices, student outcomes, school principal evaluations under section

123B.147, subdivision 3, students' access to effective teachers who are members of populations underrepresented among the licensed teachers in the district or school and who reflect the diversity of enrolled students under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), clause (2), and teacher evaluations under section 122A.40, subdivision 8, or 122A.41, subdivision 5;

(4) strategies for improving instruction, curriculum, and student achievement, including the English and, where practicable, the native language development and the academic achievement of English learners;

(5) a process to examine the equitable distribution of teachers and strategies to ensure children in low-income families, children in families of People of Color, and children in American Indian families are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, ineffective, or out-of-field teachers;

(6) education effectiveness practices that:

(i) integrate high-quality instruction, technology, and curriculum that is rigorous, accurate, antiracist, and culturally sustaining;

(ii) ensure learning and work environments validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate cultural and community strengths for all students, families, and employees; and

(iii) provide a collaborative professional culture that seeks to retain qualified, racially and ethnically diverse staff effective at working with diverse students while developing and supporting teacher quality, performance, and effectiveness;

(7) an annual budget for continuing to implement the district plan; and

(8) identifying a list of suggested and required materials, resources, sample curricula, and pedagogical skills for use in kindergarten through grade 12 that accurately reflect the diversity of the state of Minnesota.

(b) A school district is not required to include information regarding literacy in a plan or report required under this section, except with regard to the academic achievement of English learners.

Subd. 3. District advisory committee. Each school board must 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, consistent with subdivision 2. A district advisory committee, to the extent possible, must 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. The district advisory committee must 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 section 124D.59, subdivisions 2 and 2a. The district may establish site teams as subcommittees of the district advisory committee under subdivision 4. The district advisory committee must recommend to the school board: rigorous academic standards; student achievement goals and measures consistent with subdivision 1a and sections 120B.022, subdivisions 1a and 1b, and 120B.35; district assessments; means to improve students' equitable access to effective and more diverse teachers; strategies to ensure the curriculum is rigorous, accurate, antiracist, culturally sustaining, and reflects the diversity of the student population; strategies to ensure that curriculum and learning and work environments validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate the cultural and community strengths of all racial and ethnic groups; and program evaluations. School sites may expand upon district evaluations of instruction, curriculum, assessments, or programs. Whenever possible, parents and other community residents must comprise at least two-thirds of advisory committee members.

Subd. 4. **Site team.** A school must establish a site team to develop and implement strategies and education effectiveness practices to improve instruction, curriculum, cultural competencies, including cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication, and student achievement at the school site, consistent with subdivision 2. 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 about developing the annual budget and creates an instruction and curriculum improvement plan to align curriculum, assessment of student progress, and growth in meeting state and district academic standards and instruction.

Subd. 5. **Report.** Consistent with requirements for school performance reports under section 120B.36, subdivision 1, the school board shall publish a report in the local newspaper with the largest circulation in the district, by mail, or by electronic means on the district website. The school board 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 cultural competency, and efforts to equitably distribute diverse, effective, experienced, and in-field teachers, and to review district success in realizing the previously adopted student achievement goals and related benchmarks and the improvement plans leading to comprehensive achievement and civic readiness. The school board must transmit an electronic summary of its report to the commissioner in the form and manner the commissioner determines.

Subd. 6. [Repealed by amendment, 2013 c 116 art 2 s 6]

Subd. 7. **Periodic report.** Each school district shall periodically survey affected constituencies, in their native languages where appropriate and practicable, about their connection to and level of satisfaction with school. The district shall include the results of this evaluation in the summary report required under subdivision 5.

Subd. 8. [Repealed by amendment, 2013 c 116 art 2 s 6]

Subd. 9. **Annual evaluation.** (a) The commissioner must identify effective strategies, practices, and use of resources by districts and school sites in striving for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness. The commissioner must assist districts and sites throughout the state in implementing these effective strategies, practices, and use of resources.

(b) The commissioner must identify those districts in any consecutive three-year period not making sufficient progress toward improving teaching and learning for all students, including English learners with varied needs, consistent with section 124D.59, subdivisions 2 and 2a, and striving for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness. The commissioner, in collaboration with the identified district, may require the district to use up to two percent of its basic general education revenue per fiscal year during the proximate three school years to implement commissioner-specified strategies and practices, consistent with paragraph (a), to improve and accelerate its progress in realizing its goals under this section. In implementing this section, the commissioner must consider districts' budget constraints and legal obligations.

(c) The commissioner shall report by January 25 of each year to the committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education the list of school districts that have not submitted their report to the commissioner under subdivision 5 and the list of school districts not achieving their performance goals established in their plan under subdivision 2.

History: 1996 c 412 art 7 s 4; 1Sp1997 c 4 art 5 s 12; 1998 c 397 art 6 s 124; art 11 s 3; 2000 c 254 s 2; 2003 c 130 s 12; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 6-11; 2006 c 263 art 7 s 1; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 6; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 6; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 4; art 3 s 4,5; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 3 s 5; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 8-12; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 9-11,65; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 7

120B.1117 [Renumbered 120B.118]

120B.1118 [Renumbered 120B.119]

120B.113 CLOSING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GAPS GRANTS.

Subdivision 1. **Grant program established.** The commissioner of education must establish a grant program to support implementation of comprehensive achievement and civic readiness strategies under section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clauses (4) and (6), and collaborative efforts that address opportunity gaps resulting from curricular, environmental, and structural inequities in schools experienced by students, families, and staff who are of color or who are American Indian.

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Antiracist" has the meaning given in section 120B.11, subdivision 1.

(c) "Curricular" means curriculum resources used and content taught as well as access to levels of coursework or types of learning opportunities.

(d) "Environmental" means relating to the climate and culture of a school.

(e) "Equitable" means fairness by providing curriculum, instruction, support, and other resources for learning based on the needs of individual students and groups of students to succeed at school rather than treating all students the same despite the students having different needs.

(f) "Institutional racism" has the meaning given in section 120B.11, subdivision 1.

(g) "Opportunity gap" means the inequitable distribution of resources that impacts inequitable opportunities that contribute to or perpetuate learning gaps for certain groups of students.

(h) "Structural" means relating to the organization and systems of a school that have been created to manage a school.

Subd. 3. **Applications and grant awards.** The commissioner must determine application procedures and deadlines, select districts and charter schools to participate in the grant program, and determine the award amount and payment process of the grants. To the extent that there are sufficient applications, the commissioner must award an approximately equal number of grants between districts in greater Minnesota and those in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. If there are an insufficient number of applications received for either geographic area, then the commissioner may award grants to meet the requests for funds wherever a district is located.

Subd. 4. **Description.** The grant program must provide funding that supports collaborative efforts that close opportunity gaps by:

(1) ensuring school environments and curriculum validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate cultural and community strengths of students, families, and employees from all racial and ethnic backgrounds; and

(2) addressing institutional racism with equitable school policies, structures, practices, and curricular offerings, consistent with the requirements for long-term plans under section 124D.861, subdivision 2, paragraph (c).

Subd. 5. **Report.** Grant recipients must annually report to the commissioner by a date and in a form and manner determined by the commissioner on efforts planned and implemented that engaged students, families, educators, and community members of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds in making improvements to

school climate and curriculum. The report must assess the impact of those efforts as perceived by racially and ethnically diverse stakeholders, and must identify any areas needed for further continuous improvement. The commissioner must publish a report for the public summarizing the activities of grant recipients and what was done to promote sharing of effective practices among grant recipients and potential grant applicants.

History: 2023 c 55 art 5 s 3; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 31

120B.115 REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

(a) Regional centers of excellence are established to assist and support school boards, school districts, school sites, and charter schools in implementing research-based interventions and practices to increase the students' achievement within a region. The centers must develop partnerships with local and regional service cooperatives, postsecondary institutions, integrated school districts, the department, children's mental health providers, or other local or regional entities interested in providing a cohesive and consistent regional delivery system that serves all schools equitably. Centers must assist school districts, school sites, and charter schools in developing similar partnerships. Center support may include assisting school districts, school sites, and charter schools with common principles of effective practice, including:

(1) defining measurable education goals under sections 120B.022, subdivisions 1a and 1b, and 120B.11, subdivision 2;

(2) implementing evidence-based practices, including applied and experiential learning, contextualized learning, competency-based curricula and assessments, and other nontraditional learning opportunities, among other practices;

(3) engaging in data-driven decision-making;

(4) providing multilayered levels of support;

(5) supporting culturally responsive teaching and learning aligning the development of academic English proficiency, state and local academic standards, and career and college readiness benchmarks;

(6) engaging parents, families, youth, and local community members in programs and activities at the school district, school site, or charter school that foster collaboration and shared accountability for the achievement of all students; and

(7) translating district forms and other information such as a multilingual glossary of commonly used education terms and phrases.

Centers must work with school site leadership teams to build the expertise and experience to implement programs that close the achievement gap, provide effective and differentiated programs and instruction for different types of English learners, including English learners with limited or interrupted formal schooling and long-term English learners under section 124D.59, subdivisions 2 and 2a, increase students' progress and growth toward career and college readiness, and increase student graduation rates.

(b) The department must assist the regional centers of excellence to meet staff, facilities, and technical needs, provide the centers with programmatic support, and work with the centers to establish a coherent statewide system of regional support, including consulting, training, and technical support, to help school boards, school districts, school sites, and charter schools effectively and efficiently implement the comprehensive achievement and civic readiness goals under section 120B.11 and other state and federal education initiatives, including secondary and postsecondary career pathways and technical education.

History: 2013 c 116 art 2 s 7; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 5; art 3 s 6; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 31

120B.117 INCREASING PERCENTAGE OF TEACHERS OF COLOR AND AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHERS IN MINNESOTA.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** This section sets short-term and long-term attainment goals for increasing the percentage of teachers of color and who are American Indian teachers in Minnesota and for ensuring all students have equitable access to effective and racially and ethnically diverse teachers who reflect the diversity of students. The goals and report required under this section are important for meeting attainment goals for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness under section 120B.11, achievement and integration under section 124D.861, and higher education attainment under section 135A.012, all of which have been established to close persistent opportunity and achievement gaps that limit students' success in school and life and impede the state's economic growth.

Subd. 2. **Equitable access to racially and ethnically diverse teachers.** The percentage of teachers in Minnesota who are of color or who are American Indian should increase at least two percentage points per year to have a teaching workforce that more closely reflects the state's increasingly diverse student population and to ensure all students have equitable access to effective and diverse teachers by 2040.

Subd. 3. **Rights not created.** The attainment goal in this section is not to the exclusion of any other goals and does not confer a right or create a claim for any person.

Subd. 4. **Reporting.** The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must collaborate with the Department of Education and the Office of Higher Education to publish a summary report of each of the programs they administer and any other programs receiving state appropriations that have or include an explicit purpose of increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of the state's teacher workforce to more closely reflect the diversity of students. The report must include programs under sections 122A.59, 122A.63, 122A.635, 122A.70, 122A.73, 124D.09, 124D.861, 136A.1274, 136A.1276, and 136A.1791, along with any other programs or initiatives that receive state appropriations to address the shortage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers. The board must, in coordination with the Office of Higher Education and Department of Education, provide policy and funding recommendations related to state-funded programs to increase the recruitment, preparation, licensing, hiring, and retention of racially and ethnically diverse teachers and the state's progress toward meeting or exceeding the goals of this section. The report must include recommendations for state policy and funding needed to achieve the goals of this section, plans for sharing the report and activities of grant recipients, and opportunities among grant recipients of various programs to share effective practices with each other. The initial report must also include a recommendation of whether a state advisory council should be established to address the shortage of racially and ethnically diverse teachers and what the composition and charge of such an advisory council would be if established. The board must consult with the Indian Affairs Council and other ethnic councils along with other community partners, including students of color and American Indian students, in developing the report. The board must submit the report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over education and higher education policy and finance by November 3, 2025, for the initial report, and by November 3 each even-numbered year thereafter. The report must be available to the public on the board's website.

History: 2023 c 55 art 5 s 4; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 31; art 3 s 1

120B.118 TITLE; THE READ ACT.

Sections 120B.118 to 120B.124 may be cited as the "Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act" or the "Read Act."

History: 2023 c 55 art 3 s 1; 2024 c 109 art 4 s 1, 20

120B.119 READ ACT DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Read Act.** For purposes of sections 120B.118 to 120B.124, the following terms have the meanings given.

Subd. 2. **CAREI.** "CAREI" means the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement at the University of Minnesota.

Subd. 2a. **Certified trained facilitator.** "Certified trained facilitator" means a person employed by a district or regional literacy network who has completed professional development approved by the Department of Education in structured literacy, completed the vendor's certification prerequisites and facilitator training requirements, completed the vendor's annual recertification requirements, remains in good standing with the sponsoring agency and vendor, uses the vendor's training materials with fidelity, and participates in mentoring or coaching provided by CAREI and the Department of Education on facilitating literacy training. A literacy lead who meets the requirements under this subdivision may be a certified trained facilitator.

Subd. 3. **District.** "District" means a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit as defined in section 123A.24, subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. **Evidence-based.** "Evidence-based" means the instruction or item described is based on reliable, trustworthy, and valid evidence and has demonstrated a record of success in increasing students' reading competency in the areas of phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Evidence-based literacy instruction is explicit, systematic, and includes phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, spelling, fluency, vocabulary, oral language, and comprehension that can be differentiated to meet the needs of individual students. Evidence-based instruction does not include the three-cueing system, as defined in subdivision 16.

Subd. 5. **Fluency.** "Fluency" means the ability of students to read text accurately, automatically, and with proper expression.

Subd. 6. **Foundational reading skills.** "Foundational reading skills" includes phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and fluency. Foundational reading skills appropriate to each grade level must be mastered in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3. Struggling readers in grades 4 and above who do not demonstrate mastery of grade-level foundational reading skills must continue to receive explicit, systematic instruction to reach mastery.

Subd. 7. **Literacy specialist.** "Literacy specialist" means a person licensed by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board as a teacher of reading, a special education teacher, or a kindergarten through grade 6 teacher, who has completed professional development approved by the Department of Education in structured literacy.

Subd. 8. **Literacy lead.** "Literacy lead" means a literacy specialist with expertise in working with educators as adult learners. A district literacy lead must support the district's implementation of the Read Act; provide support to school-based coaches; support the implementation of structured literacy, interventions, curriculum delivery, and teacher training; assist with the development of personal learning plans; and train paraprofessionals and other support staff to support classroom literacy instruction. A literacy lead may be employed by one district, jointly by two or more districts, or may provide services to districts through a partnership with the regional service cooperatives or another district.

Subd. 9. **Multitiered system of support.** "Multitiered system of support" or "MTSS" means a systemic, continuous improvement framework for ensuring positive social, emotional, behavioral, developmental, and academic outcomes for every student. The MTSS framework provides access to layered tiers of culturally

and linguistically responsive, evidence-based practices and relies on the understanding and belief that every student can learn and thrive. Through a MTSS at the core (Tier 1), supplemental (Tier 2), and intensive (Tier 3) levels, educators provide high quality, evidence-based instruction and intervention that is matched to a student's needs; progress is monitored to inform instruction and set goals and data is used for educational decision making.

Subd. 10. **Oral language.** "Oral language," also called "spoken language," includes speaking and listening, and consists of five components: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Oral language also includes sign language, in which speaking and listening skills are defined as expressive and receptive skills, and consists of phonology, including sign language phonological awareness, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

Subd. 11. **Phonemic awareness.** "Phonemic awareness" means the ability to notice, think about, and manipulate individual sounds in spoken syllables and words.

Subd. 12. **Phonics instruction.** "Phonics instruction" means the explicit, systematic, and direct instruction of the relationships between letters and the sounds they represent and the application of this knowledge in reading and spelling.

Subd. 13. **Progress monitoring.** "Progress monitoring" means using data collected to inform whether interventions are working. Progress monitoring involves ongoing monitoring of progress that quantifies rates of improvement and informs instructional practice and the development of individualized programs using state-approved screening that is reliable and valid for the intended purpose.

Subd. 14. **Reading comprehension.** "Reading comprehension" means a function of word recognition skills and language comprehension skills. It is an active process that requires intentional thinking during which meaning is constructed through interactions between the text and reader. Comprehension skills are taught explicitly by demonstrating, explaining, modeling, and implementing specific cognitive strategies to help beginning readers derive meaning through intentional, problem-solving thinking processes.

Subd. 15. **Structured literacy.** "Structured literacy" means an approach to reading instruction in which teachers carefully structure important literacy skills, concepts, and the sequence of instruction to facilitate children's literacy learning and progress. Structured literacy is characterized by the provision of systematic, explicit, sequential, and diagnostic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and oral language development, and reading comprehension.

Subd. 16. **Three-cueing system.** "Three-cueing system," also known as "meaning structure visual (MSV)," means a method that teaches students to use meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues when attempting to read an unknown word.

Subd. 17. **Vocabulary development.** "Vocabulary development" means the process of acquiring new words. A robust vocabulary improves all areas of communication, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Vocabulary growth is directly related to school achievement and is a strong predictor for reading success.

History: 2023 c 55 art 3 s 2; 2024 c 109 art 4 s 2-4,20

120B.12 READ ACT GOAL AND INTERVENTIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Literacy goal.** (a) The legislature seeks to have every child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals in order to meet grade-level

proficiency. By the 2026-2027 school year, districts must provide evidence-based reading instruction through a focus on student mastery of the foundational reading skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency, as well as the development of oral language, vocabulary, and reading comprehension skills. Students must receive evidence-based instruction that is proven to effectively teach children to read, consistent with sections 120B.118 to 120B.124.

(b) To meet this goal, each district must provide teachers and instructional support staff with responsibility for teaching reading with training on evidence-based reading instruction that is approved by the Department of Education by the deadlines provided in section 120B.123, subdivision 5.

(c) Districts are strongly encouraged to adopt a MTSS framework. The framework should include a process for monitoring student progress, evaluating program fidelity, and analyzing student outcomes and needs in order to design and implement ongoing evidenced-based instruction and interventions.

Subd. 2. Identification; report. (a) Each school district must screen every student enrolled in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3 using a screening tool approved by the Department of Education three times each school year: (1) within the first six weeks of the school year; (2) by February 15 each year; and (3) within the last six weeks of the school year. Students enrolled in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3, including multilingual learners and students receiving special education services, must be universally screened for mastery of foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, oral language, and for characteristics of dyslexia as measured by a screening tool approved by the Department of Education. The screening for characteristics of dyslexia may be integrated with universal screening for mastery of foundational skills and oral language. A district must submit data on student performance in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3 on foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, and oral language to the Department of Education in the annual local literacy plan submission due on June 15.

(b) Students in grades 4 and above, including multilingual learners and students receiving special education services, who do not demonstrate mastery of foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, and oral language, must be screened using a screening tool approved by the Department of Education for characteristics of dyslexia, and must continue to receive evidence-based instruction, interventions, and progress monitoring until the students achieve grade-level proficiency. A parent, in consultation with a teacher, may opt a student out of the literacy screener if the parent and teacher decide that continuing to screen would not be beneficial to the student. In such limited cases, the student must continue to receive progress monitoring and literacy interventions.

(c) Reading screeners in English, and in the predominant languages of district students where practicable, must identify and evaluate students' areas of academic need related to literacy. The district also must monitor the progress and provide reading instruction appropriate to the specific needs of multilingual learners. The district must use an approved, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive screener and annually report summary screener results to the commissioner by June 15 in the form and manner determined by the commissioner.

(d) The district also must include in its literacy plan under subdivision 4a, a summary of the district's efforts to screen, identify, and provide interventions to students who demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia as measured by a screening tool approved by the Department of Education. Districts are strongly encouraged to use a MTSS framework. With respect to students screened or identified under paragraph (a), the report must include:

- (1) a summary of the district's efforts to screen for dyslexia;

(2) the number of students universally screened for that reporting year;

(3) the number of students demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia for that year; and

(4) an explanation of how students identified under this subdivision are provided with alternate instruction and interventions under section 125A.56, subdivision 1.

Subd. 2a. **Parent notification and involvement.** A district must administer an approved reading screener to students in kindergarten through grade 3 within the first six weeks of the school year, by February 15 each year, and again within the last six weeks of the school year. Schools, after administering each screener, must give the parent of each student who is not reading at or above grade level timely information about:

(1) the student's reading proficiency as measured by a screener approved by the Department of Education;

(2) reading-related services currently being provided to the student and the student's progress; and

(3) strategies for parents to use at home in helping their student succeed in becoming grade-level proficient in reading in English and in their native language.

A district may not use this section to deny a student's right to a special education evaluation.

Subd. 3. **Intervention.** (a) For each student identified under subdivision 2, the district shall provide reading intervention to accelerate student growth and reach the goal of reading at or above grade level by the end of the current grade and school year. A district is encouraged to provide reading intervention through a MTSS framework. If a student does not read at or above grade level by the end of the current school year, the district must continue to provide reading intervention until the student reads at grade level. District intervention methods shall encourage family engagement and, where possible, collaboration with appropriate school and community programs that specialize in evidence-based instructional practices and measure mastery of foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, and oral language. Intervention may include but is not limited to requiring student attendance in summer school, intensified reading instruction that may require that the student be removed from the regular classroom for part of the school day, extended-day programs, or programs that strengthen students' cultural connections.

(b) A district or charter school is strongly encouraged to provide a personal learning plan for a student who is unable to demonstrate grade-level proficiency, as measured by the statewide reading assessment in grade 3 or a screener identified by the Department of Education under section 120B.123. The district or charter school must determine the format of the personal learning plan in collaboration with the student's educators and other appropriate professionals. The school must develop the learning plan in consultation with the student's parent or guardian. The personal learning plan must include targeted instruction that is evidence-based and ongoing progress monitoring, and address knowledge gaps and skill deficiencies through strategies such as specific exercises and practices during and outside of the regular school day, group interventions, periodic assessments or screeners, and reasonable timelines. The personal learning plan may include grade retention, if it is in the student's best interest; a student may not be retained solely due to delays in literacy or not demonstrating grade-level proficiency. A school must maintain and regularly update and modify the personal learning plan until the student reads at grade level. This paragraph does not apply to a student under an individualized education program.

(c) Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, a district must use only evidence-based literacy interventions. Districts are strongly encouraged to use intervention materials approved by the Department of Education under the Read Act.

(d) Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, to provide a Tier 2 literacy intervention, a paraprofessional or other unlicensed person, including a volunteer, must be supervised by a licensed teacher who has completed training in evidence-based reading instruction approved by the Department of Education, and has completed evidence-based training developed under the Read Act by CAREI or the regional literacy networks under section 120B.124, subdivision 4, or a training that the department has determined meets or exceeds the requirements of section 120B.124, subdivision 4.

Subd. 4. Staff development. (a) A district must provide training on evidence-based structured literacy instruction to teachers and instructional staff in accordance with subdivision 1, paragraphs (b) and (c). The training must include teaching in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, reading comprehension, and culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy.

(b) Each district shall use the data under subdivision 2 to identify the staff development needs so that:

(1) elementary teachers are able to implement explicit, systematic, evidence-based instruction in the five reading areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension with emphasis on mastery of foundational reading skills as defined in section 120B.119 and other literacy-related areas including writing until the student achieves grade-level reading and writing proficiency;

(2) elementary teachers receive training to provide students with evidence-based reading and oral language instruction that meets students' developmental, linguistic, and literacy needs using the intervention methods or programs selected by the district for the identified students;

(3) licensed teachers employed by the district have opportunities to improve reading and writing instruction through approved professional development identified in the local literacy plan;

(4) licensed teachers recognize students' diverse needs in cross-cultural settings and are able to serve the oral language and linguistic needs of students who are multilingual learners by maximizing strengths in their native languages in order to cultivate students' English language development, including oral academic language development, and build academic literacy; and

(5) licensed teachers are trained in culturally responsive pedagogy that enables students to master content, develop skills to access content, and build relationships.

(c) A district that offers early childhood programs, including voluntary prekindergarten for eligible four-year-old children, early childhood special education, and school readiness programs, must provide classroom teachers in early childhood programs training approved by the Department of Education to provide children in early childhood programs with explicit, systematic instruction in phonological and phonemic awareness; oral language, including listening comprehension; vocabulary; and letter-sound correspondence.

Subd. 4a. Local literacy plan. (a) Consistent with this section, a school district must adopt a local literacy plan to have every child reading at or above grade level every year beginning in kindergarten and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals. A district must update and submit the plan to the commissioner by June 15 each year. The plan must be consistent with the Read Act, and include the following:

(1) a process to assess students' foundational reading skills, oral language, and level of reading proficiency and the approved screeners used, by school site and grade level, under section 120B.123;

(2) a process to notify and involve parents;

(3) a description of how schools in the district will determine the targeted reading instruction that is evidence-based and includes an intervention strategy for a student and the process for intensifying or modifying the reading strategy in order to obtain measurable reading progress;

(4) evidence-based intervention methods for students who are not reading at or above grade level and progress monitoring to provide information on the effectiveness of the intervention;

(5) identification of staff development needs, including a plan to meet those needs;

(6) the curricula used by school site and grade level and, if applicable, the district plan and timeline for adopting approved curricula and materials starting in the 2025-2026 school year;

(7) a statement of whether the district has adopted a MTSS framework;

(8) student data using the measures of foundational literacy skills and mastery identified by the Department of Education for the following students:

(i) students in kindergarten through grade 3;

(ii) students who demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia; and

(iii) students in grades 4 to 12 who are identified as not reading at grade level;

(9) the number of teachers and other staff who have completed training approved by the department;

(10) the number of teachers and other staff proposed for training in structured literacy; and

(11) how the district used funding provided under the Read Act to implement the requirements of the Read Act.

(b) The district must post its literacy plan on the official school district website and submit it to the commissioner of education using the template developed by the commissioner of education beginning June 15, 2024.

(c) By March 1, 2024, the commissioner of education must develop a streamlined template for local literacy plans that meets the requirements of this subdivision and requires all reading instruction and teacher training in reading instruction to be evidence-based. The template must require a district to report information using the student categories required in the commissioner's report under paragraph (d). The template must focus district resources on improving students' foundational reading skills while reducing paperwork requirements for teachers.

(d) By December 1, 2025, the commissioner of education must submit a report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over prekindergarten through grade 12 education summarizing the local literacy plans submitted to the commissioner. The summary must include the following information:

(1) the number of teachers and other staff who have completed training approved by the Department of Education;

(2) the number of teachers and other staff required to complete the training under section 120B.123, subdivision 5, who have not completed the training;

(3) the number of teachers exempt under section 120B.123, subdivision 5, from completing training approved by the Department of Education;

(4) by school site and grade, the approved screeners and the reading curriculum used; and

(5) by school site and grade, using the measurements of foundational literacy skills and mastery identified by the department, both aggregated data and disaggregated data on student performance on the approved screeners using the student categories under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2).

(e) By December 1, 2026, and December 1, 2027, the commissioner of education must submit updated reports containing the information required under paragraph (d) to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over prekindergarten through grade 12 education.

Subd. 5. **Approved screeners.** The commissioner must recommend to districts multiple screening tools to assist districts and teachers with identifying students under subdivision 2 and to assess students' reading proficiency. The commissioner must identify screeners that may be used for both purposes. A district must administer an approved screener according to section 120B.123, subdivision 1.

History: *1Sp2001 c 13 s 12; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 6; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 2 s 3; 2012 c 239 art 1 s 33; art 2 s 2; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 6; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 4; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 13; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 5-7; 2018 c 182 art 1 s 13; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 2 s 2; 1Sp2020 c 8 art 2 s 1; 2023 c 55 art 3 s 3; 2024 c 109 art 4 s 5-10*

120B.122 DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** The department must employ a dyslexia specialist to provide technical assistance for dyslexia and related disorders and to serve as the primary source of information and support for schools in addressing the needs of students with dyslexia and related disorders. The dyslexia specialist shall also act to increase professional awareness and instructional competencies to meet the educational needs of students with dyslexia or identified with risk characteristics associated with dyslexia and shall develop implementation guidance and make recommendations to the commissioner consistent with sections 120B.118 to 120B.124, to be used to assist general education teachers and special education teachers to recognize educational needs and to improve literacy outcomes for students with dyslexia or identified with risk characteristics associated with dyslexia, including recommendations related to increasing the availability of online and asynchronous professional development programs and materials.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, a "dyslexia specialist" means a dyslexia therapist, licensed psychologist, licensed speech-language pathologist, or certified dyslexia training specialist who has a minimum of three years of field experience in screening, identifying, and treating dyslexia and related disorders.

Subd. 3. **Requirements.** A dyslexia specialist shall be highly trained in dyslexia and related disorders and in using interventions and treatments that are evidence-based, multisensory, direct, explicit, structured, and sequential in the areas of phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

History: *1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 8; 2023 c 55 art 3 s 4; 2024 c 109 art 4 s 20*

120B.123 READ ACT IMPLEMENTATION.

Subdivision 1. **Approved screeners.** (a) A district must administer an approved evidence-based reading screener to students in kindergarten through grade 3 within the first six weeks of the school year, by February 15 each year, and again within the last six weeks of the school year. The screener must be one of the screening tools approved by the Department of Education. A district must identify any screener it uses in the district's annual literacy plan, and submit screening data with the annual literacy plan by June 15.

(b) Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, district staff, contractors, and volunteers may only use screeners that have been approved by the Department of Education.

Subd. 2. **Progress monitoring.** A district must implement progress monitoring, as defined in section 120B.119, for a student not reading at grade level.

Subd. 3. **Curriculum.** A district must use evidence-based curriculum and intervention materials at each grade level that are designed to ensure student mastery of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Starting July 1, 2023, when a district purchases new literacy curriculum, or literacy intervention or supplementary materials, the curriculum or materials must be evidence-based as defined in section 120B.119.

Subd. 4. **MTSS framework.** A district is encouraged to use a data-based decision-making process within the MTSS framework to determine the evidence-based core reading instruction and Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention required to meet a student's identified needs.

Subd. 5. **Professional development.** (a) A district must provide training from a menu of approved evidence-based training programs to the following teachers and staff by July 1, 2026:

- (1) reading intervention teachers working with students in kindergarten through grade 12;
- (2) all classroom teachers of students in kindergarten through grade 3 and children in prekindergarten programs;
- (3) special education teachers;
- (4) curriculum directors;
- (5) instructional support staff, contractors, and volunteers who assist in providing Tier 2 interventions;
- (6) employees who select literacy instructional materials for a district; and
- (7) teachers licensed to teach English to multilingual learners.

(b) A district must provide training from a menu of approved evidence-based training programs to the following teachers by July 1, 2027:

- (1) teachers who provide reading instruction to students in grades 4 to 12; and
 - (2) teachers who provide instruction to students in a state-approved alternative program.
- (c) The commissioner of education may grant a district an extension to the deadlines in this subdivision.

(d) Training provided by a department-approved certified trained facilitator may satisfy the professional development requirements under this subdivision.

(e) For the 2024-2025 school year only, the hours of instruction requirement under section 120A.41 for students in an elementary school, as defined in section 120A.05, subdivision 9, is reduced by 5-1/2 hours for a district that enters into an agreement with the exclusive representative of the teachers that requires teachers to receive at least 5-1/2 hours of approved evidence-based training required under this subdivision, on a day when other students in the district receive instruction. If a charter school's teachers are not represented by an exclusive representative, the charter school may reduce the number of instructional hours for students in an elementary school, as defined in section 120A.05, subdivision 9, by 5-1/2 hours after consulting with its teachers in order to provide teachers with at least 5-1/2 hours of evidence-based training required under this subdivision on a day when other students receive instruction.

Subd. 6. **Literacy lead.** (a) By August 30, 2025, a district must employ or contract with a literacy lead, or be actively supporting a designated literacy specialist through the process of becoming a literacy lead. A board may satisfy the requirements of this subdivision by contracting with another school board or cooperative unit under section 123A.24 for the services of a literacy lead by August 30, 2025.

(b) A district literacy lead must collaborate with district administrators and staff to support the district's implementation of requirements under the Read Act.

Subd. 7. **Department of Education.** (a) By July 1, 2023, the department must make available to districts a list of approved evidence-based screeners in accordance with section 120B.12. A district must use an approved screener to assess students' mastery of foundational reading skills in accordance with section 120B.12.

(b) The Department of Education must partner with CAREI as required under section 120B.124 to approve professional development programs, subject to final determination by the department. After the implementation partnership under section 120B.124 ends, the department must continue to regularly provide districts with information about professional development opportunities available throughout the state on reading instruction that is evidence-based.

(c) The department and CAREI must identify training required for a literacy lead and literacy specialist employed by a district or Minnesota service cooperatives.

(d) The department must employ one or more literacy specialists to provide support to districts implementing the Read Act and coordinate duties assigned to the department under the Read Act. The literacy specialist must work on state efforts to improve literacy tracking and implementation.

(e) The department must develop a template for a local literacy plan in accordance with section 120B.12, subdivision 4a.

(f) The department must partner with CAREI as required under section 120B.124 to approve literacy intervention models, subject to final determination by the department. The department must make a list of the 15 approved evidence-based intervention models available to districts as they are approved by CAREI, starting November 1, 2025. Upon approval of the evidence-based intervention models, the department must ensure the models are reviewed by a contracted third party for culturally responsive guidance and materials, and make those findings available to districts once the review process is complete. The department must notify districts of the two-step review process for all materials approved under the Read Act for effectiveness as evidence-based structured literacy, and for cultural responsiveness.

(g) The department and CAREI must provide ongoing coaching, mentoring, and support to certified trained facilitators.

History: 2023 c 55 art 3 s 5; 2024 c 109 art 4 s 11-14,20

120B.124 READ ACT IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERSHIP.

Subdivision 1. **Resources.** (a) The Department of Education must partner with CAREI for two years beginning July 1, 2023, until August 30, 2025, to support implementation of the Read Act. The department and CAREI must jointly:

(1) identify at least five literacy curricula and supporting materials that are evidence-based or focused on structured literacy by January 1, 2024, and post a list of the curricula on the department website. The list must include curricula that use culturally and linguistically responsive materials that reflect diverse populations

and curricula that reflect the experiences of students from diverse backgrounds, including multilingual learners, biliterate students, and students who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. A district that purchases an approved curriculum before the cultural responsiveness review is completed is encouraged to work with the curriculum's publisher to obtain updated materials that are culturally and linguistically responsive and reflect diverse populations. A district is not required to use an approved curriculum;

(2) identify at least three professional development programs that focus on the five pillars of literacy and the components of structured literacy by August 15, 2023, subject to final approval by the department. The department must post a list of the programs on the department website. The programs may include a program offered by CAREI. The requirements of section 16C.08 do not apply to the selection of a provider under this section;

(3) identify evidence-based literacy intervention materials for students in kindergarten through grade 12;

(4) develop an evidence-based literacy lead training and coaching program that trains and supports literacy specialists throughout Minnesota to support schools' efforts in screening, measuring growth, monitoring progress, and implementing interventions in accordance with subdivision 1. Literacy lead training must include instruction on how to train paraprofessionals and volunteers that provide Tier 2 interventions on evidence-based literacy intervention;

(5) identify measures of foundational literacy skills and mastery that a district must report on a local literacy plan;

(6) provide guidance to districts about best practices in literacy instruction, and practices that are not evidence-based;

(7) develop MTSS model plans that districts may adopt to support efforts to screen, identify, intervene, and monitor the progress of students not reading at grade level;

(8) ensure that teacher professional development options and MTSS framework trainings are geographically equitable by supporting trainings through the regional service cooperatives;

(9) develop a coaching and mentorship program for certified trained facilitators based on the previously approved trainings; and

(10) identify at least 15 evidence-based literacy intervention models by November 1, 2025, and post a list of the interventions on the department website. A district is not required to use an approved intervention model.

(b) The department must contract with a third party to develop culturally and linguistically responsive supplemental materials and guidance for the approved literacy curricula to meet the culturally and linguistically responsive standards under paragraph (a), clause (1).

Subd. 2. Reconsideration. (a) The department and CAREI must provide districts an opportunity to request that the department and CAREI add to the list of curricula or professional development programs a specific curriculum or professional development program. The department must publish the request for reconsideration procedure on the department website. A request for reconsideration must demonstrate that the curriculum or professional development program meets the requirements of the Read Act, is evidence-based, and has structured literacy components. The department and CAREI must review the request for reconsideration and approve or deny the request within 60 days.

(b) The department and CAREI must conduct a final curriculum review of previously submitted curriculum by March 3, 2025, to review curriculum that is available to districts at no cost.

Subd. 3. **Support.** The department and CAREI must support district efforts to implement the Read Act by:

(1) issuing guidance for teachers on implementing curriculum that is evidence-based, or focused on structured literacy;

(2) providing teachers accessible options for evidence-based professional development focused on structured literacy;

(3) providing districts with guidance on adopting MTSS; and

(4) providing districts with literacy implementation guidance and support.

Subd. 4. **Volunteer and paraprofessional training.** (a) The department and CAREI must develop and provide training on evidence-based literacy interventions for the following unlicensed persons that regularly provide Tier 2 interventions to students in Minnesota districts:

(1) paraprofessionals and other unlicensed school staff; and

(2) volunteers, contractors, and other persons not employed by Minnesota districts.

(b) The regional literacy networks must develop and provide training on evidence-based literacy interventions consistent with paragraph (a).

(c) CAREI and the regional literacy networks must collaborate to ensure that training provided by CAREI and the regional literacy networks is consistent across providers. The trainings must not exceed eight hours. The trainings must be based on approved training developed for teachers, and must include a train the trainer component to enable literacy leads to provide the training to paraprofessionals and volunteers. CAREI and the regional literacy networks must provide the trainings at no cost to paraprofessionals and other unlicensed school staff who regularly provide Tier 2 interventions to students in Minnesota districts.

Subd. 5. **Ongoing review of literacy materials.** The department may partner with one or more institutions of higher education to conduct independent and objective reviews of curriculum and intervention materials. The department must determine whether it will partner with an institution of higher education to conduct ongoing reviews of literacy materials by June 1, 2026. A publisher may submit curriculum or intervention materials for review. The publisher is responsible for paying the cost of the review directly to the institution of higher education. The review must use the rubric used to approve curriculum under subdivision 1. The department and institution of higher education may approve the curriculum or intervention materials if they determine that the curriculum or intervention materials are evidence-based, focused on structured literacy, culturally and linguistically responsive, and reflect diverse populations. The department must add the approved curriculum or intervention materials to the list of curricula and materials approved under the Read Act.

Subd. 6. **Comprehensive review of literacy materials.** Starting in 2033, the department and an institution of higher education may partner to conduct a comprehensive review of curriculum and intervention materials to identify literacy curriculum and supporting materials, and intervention materials that are evidence-based, focused on structured literacy, culturally and linguistically responsive, and reflect diverse populations. The

department must revise the list of approved curriculum and supporting materials, and intervention materials based on the findings of the review.

History: 2023 c 55 art 3 s 6; 2024 c 109 art 4 s 15-17; 2024 c 115 art 3 s 1,2

120B.125 PLANNING FOR STUDENTS' SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT; PERSONAL LEARNING PLANS.

(a) Consistent with sections 120B.13, 120B.131, 120B.132, 120B.14, 120B.15, 120B.303, subdivision 1, 125A.08, and other related sections, school districts, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, must assist all students by no later than grade 9 to explore their educational, college, and career interests, aptitudes, and aspirations and develop a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment. All students' plans must:

(1) provide a comprehensive plan to prepare for and complete a career and college ready curriculum by meeting state and local academic standards and developing career and employment-related skills such as team work, collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking, and good work habits;

(2) emphasize academic rigor and high expectations and inform the student, and the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor, of the student's achievement level score on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that are administered during high school;

(3) help students identify interests, aptitudes, aspirations, and personal learning styles that may affect their career and college ready goals and postsecondary education and employment choices;

(4) set appropriate career and college ready goals with timelines that identify effective means for achieving those goals;

(5) help students access education and career options;

(6) integrate strong academic content into career-focused courses and applied and experiential learning opportunities and integrate relevant career-focused courses and applied and experiential learning opportunities into strong academic content;

(7) help identify and access appropriate counseling and other supports and assistance that enable students to complete required coursework, prepare for postsecondary education and careers, and obtain information about postsecondary education costs and eligibility for financial aid and scholarship;

(8) help identify collaborative partnerships among prekindergarten through grade 12 schools, postsecondary institutions, economic development agencies, and local and regional employers that support students' transition to postsecondary education and employment and provide students with applied and experiential learning opportunities; and

(9) be reviewed and revised at least annually by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the school or district to ensure that the student's course-taking schedule keeps the student on track for graduation, making adequate progress to meet state and local academic standards and high school graduation requirements and with a reasonable chance to succeed with employment or postsecondary education without the need to first complete remedial coursework.

(b) A school district may develop grade-level curricula or provide instruction that introduces students to various careers, but must not require any curriculum, instruction, or employment-related activity that obligates an elementary or secondary student to involuntarily select or pursue a career, career interest, employment goals, or related job training.

(c) Educators must possess the knowledge and skills to effectively teach all English learners in their classrooms. School districts must provide appropriate curriculum, targeted materials, professional development opportunities for educators, and sufficient resources to enable English learners to become career and college ready.

(d) When assisting students in developing a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education and employment, districts must recognize the unique possibilities of each student and ensure that the contents of each student's plan reflect the student's unique talents, skills, and abilities as the student grows, develops, and learns.

(e) If a student with a disability has an individualized education program (IEP) or standardized written plan that meets the plan components of this section, the IEP satisfies the requirement and no additional transition plan is needed.

(f) 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 section 120A.20, subdivision 1, paragraph (c). A student's plan under this section shall continue while the student is enrolled.

History: *1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 3; 2012 c 207 s 1; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 8; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 7; art 3 s 7; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 3 s 6; 2016 c 189 art 29 s 1; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 9; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 65; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 8*

120B.126 CONSTRUCTION AND SKILLED TRADES COUNSELING.

The commissioner of education must collaborate with the commissioner of labor and industry to incorporate construction and skilled trades into career counseling services for middle and high school aged students. Career advisement should identify high-growth, in-demand skilled trades and include information on various career paths and associated jobs, the salary profiles of those jobs, and the credentials and other training desired by employers for those jobs.

History: *2020 c 116 art 5 s 1*

120B.128 [Repealed, 1Sp2015 c 3 art 3 s 16]

120B.13 ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. **Program structure; training programs for teachers.** Critical to schools' educational success is ongoing advanced placement and international baccalaureate-approved teacher training. A secondary teacher assigned by a district to teach an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or other interested educator may participate in a training program offered by The College Board or International Baccalaureate North America, Inc. The state may pay a portion of the tuition, room, board, and out-of-state travel costs a teacher or other interested educator incurs in participating in a training program. The commissioner shall determine application procedures and deadlines, select teachers and other interested educators to participate in the training program, and determine the payment process and amount of the subsidy. The procedures determined by the commissioner shall, to the extent possible, ensure that advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses become available in all parts of the state and that a variety of course offerings are available in school districts. This subdivision does not prevent teacher or other interested educator participation in training programs offered by The College Board or International Baccalaureate North America, Inc., when tuition is paid by a source other than the state.

Subd. 2. **Support programs.** The commissioner shall provide support programs during the school year for teachers who attended the training programs and teachers experienced in teaching advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses. The support programs shall provide teachers with opportunities to share instructional ideas with other teachers. The state may pay the costs of participating in the support programs, including substitute teachers, if necessary, and program affiliation costs.

Subd. 3. **Subsidy for examination fees.** The state may pay all or part of the fee for advanced placement or international baccalaureate examinations. The commissioner shall pay all examination fees for all public and nonpublic students of low-income families, as defined by the commissioner, and to the limit of the available appropriation, shall also pay a portion or all of the examination fees for other public and nonpublic students sitting for an advanced placement examination, international baccalaureate examination, or both. The commissioner shall determine procedures for state payments of fees.

Subd. 3a. **College credit.** The colleges and universities of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system must award, and the University of Minnesota and private postsecondary institutions are encouraged to award, college credit to high school students who receive a score of three or higher on an advanced placement or four or higher on the international baccalaureate program examination.

Subd. 4. **Rigorous course taking information; AP, IB, and PSEO.** (a) The commissioner shall submit the following information on rigorous course taking, disaggregated by student subgroup, school district, and postsecondary institution, to the education committees of the legislature by July 1, 2025, and each subsequent year by July 1:

(1) the number of pupils enrolled in postsecondary enrollment options under section 124D.09, including concurrent enrollment, career and technical education courses offered as a concurrent enrollment course, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate courses in each school district;

(2) the number of teachers in each district attending training programs offered by the college board, International Baccalaureate North America, Inc., or Minnesota concurrent enrollment programs;

(3) the number of teachers in each district participating in support programs;

(4) recent trends in the field of postsecondary enrollment options under section 124D.09, including concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate programs;

(5) expenditures for each category in this section and under sections 124D.09 and 124D.091, including career and technical education courses offered as a concurrent enrollment course; and

(6) other recommendations for the state program or the postsecondary enrollment options under section 124D.09, including concurrent enrollment.

(b) The commissioner must include data from the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years in the report due on July 1, 2025.

History: 1992 c 499 art 7 s 10; 1993 c 224 art 13 s 46; 1994 c 647 art 7 s 9; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13; 1998 c 397 art 2 s 129,164; 2000 c 489 art 6 s 1; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 2; 2002 c 220 art 3 s 1; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 13-15; 2012 c 239 art 1 s 10; art 2 s 3; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 5; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 9

120B.131 COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM (CLEP).

Subdivision 1. **Program structure.** The college-level examination program (CLEP) offered by the College Board provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement and receive college credit or advanced standing through a program of examinations in undergraduate college courses.

Schools must provide information about CLEP and the opportunity to receive college credit from a Minnesota postsecondary institution to students successfully completing a college-level course.

Subd. 2. **Reimbursement for examination fees.** The state may reimburse college-level examination program (CLEP) fees for a Minnesota public or nonpublic high school student who has successfully completed one or more college-level courses in high school in the subject matter of each examination in the following subjects: composition and literature, mathematics and science, social sciences and history, foreign languages, and business and humanities. The state may reimburse each student for up to six examination fees. The commissioner shall establish application procedures and a process and schedule for fee reimbursements. The commissioner must give priority to reimburse the CLEP examination fees of students of low-income families.

Subd. 3. **College credit.** The colleges and universities of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system must award, and the University of Minnesota and private postsecondary institutions are encouraged to award, college credit to high school students who receive a satisfactory score on a CLEP examination under this section. The commissioner, in consultation with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, shall set a passing score for college credits.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 16; 2006 c 263 art 2 s 5*

120B.132 RAISED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT; ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment; eligibility.** (a) A program is established to raise kindergarten through grade 12 academic achievement through increased student participation in preadvanced placement, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate programs, consistent with section 120B.13. Schools and charter schools eligible to participate under this section must propose to further raise students' academic achievement by:

(1) increasing the availability of and all students' access to advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs;

(2) expanding the breadth of advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs that are available to students;

(3) increasing the number and the diversity of the students who participate in advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs and succeed;

(4) providing low-income and other disadvantaged students with increased access to advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses and programs; or

(5) increasing the number of high school students, including low-income and other disadvantaged students, who receive college credit by successfully completing advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs and achieving satisfactory scores on related exams.

(b) Within 90 days of receiving a grant under this section, a school district or charter school must:

(1) adopt a three-year plan approved by the local school board to establish a new international baccalaureate program leading to international baccalaureate authorization, expand an existing program that leads to international baccalaureate authorization, or expand an existing authorized international baccalaureate program; or

(2) adopt a three-year plan approved by the local school board to create a new program or expand an existing program to implement the college board advanced placement courses and exams or preadvanced placement initiative.

Subd. 2. **Application and review process; funding priority.** (a) Charter schools and school districts in which eligible schools under subdivision 1 are located may apply to the commissioner, in the form and manner the commissioner determines, for competitive funding to further raise students' academic achievement. The application must detail the specific efforts the applicant intends to undertake in further raising students' academic achievement, consistent with subdivision 1, and a proposed budget detailing the district or charter school's current and proposed expenditures for advanced placement, preadvanced placement, and international baccalaureate courses and programs. The proposed budget must demonstrate that the applicant's efforts will support implementation of advanced placement, preadvanced placement, and international baccalaureate courses and programs. Expenditures for administration must not exceed five percent of the proposed budget. Priority for advanced placement grants must be given to grantees who add or expand offerings of advanced placement computer science principles. The commissioner may require an applicant to provide additional information.

(b) When reviewing applications, the commissioner must determine whether the applicant satisfied all the requirements in this subdivision and subdivision 1. The commissioner may give funding priority to an otherwise qualified applicant that demonstrates:

(1) a focus on developing or expanding preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs or increasing students' participation in, access to, or success with the courses or programs, including the participation, access, or success of low-income and other disadvantaged students;

(2) a compelling need for access to preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs;

(3) an effective ability to actively involve local business and community organizations in student activities that are integral to preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs;

(4) access to additional public or nonpublic funds or in-kind contributions that are available for preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs;

(5) an intent to implement activities that target low-income and other disadvantaged students; or

(6) an intent to increase the advanced placement and international baccalaureate course offerings in science, technology, engineering, and math to low-income and other disadvantaged students.

Subd. 3. **Funding; permissible funding uses.** (a) The commissioner shall award grants to applicant school districts and charter schools that meet the requirements of subdivisions 1 and 2. The commissioner must award grants on an equitable geographical basis to the extent feasible and consistent with this section. Grant awards must not exceed \$75,000 per district or charter school.

(b) School districts and charter schools that submit an application and receive funding under this section must use the funding, consistent with the application, to:

(1) provide teacher training and instruction to more effectively serve students, including low-income and other disadvantaged students, who participate in preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs;

(2) further develop preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs;

(3) improve the transition between grade levels to better prepare students, including low-income and other disadvantaged students, for succeeding in preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs;

(4) purchase books and supplies;

(5) pay course or program fees;

(6) increase students' participation in and success with preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs;

(7) expand students' access to preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs through online learning;

(8) hire appropriately licensed personnel to teach additional advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs; or

(9) engage in other activities to expand low-income or disadvantaged students' access to, participation in, and success with preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses or programs. Other activities may include but are not limited to preparing and disseminating promotional materials to low-income and other disadvantaged students and their families.

Subd. 4. Grants; annual reports. (a) Each school district and charter school that receives a grant under this section annually must collect demographic and other student data to demonstrate and measure the extent to which the district or charter school raised students' academic achievement under this program and must report the data to the commissioner in the form and manner the commissioner determines. The commissioner annually by February 15 must make summary data about this program available to the education policy and finance committees of the legislature.

(b) Each school district and charter school that receives a grant under this section annually must report to the commissioner, consistent with the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards, its actual expenditures for advanced placement, preadvanced placement, and international baccalaureate courses and programs. The report must demonstrate that the school district or charter school has maintained its effort from other sources for advanced placement, preadvanced placement, and international baccalaureate courses and programs compared with the previous fiscal year, and the district or charter school has expended all grant funds, consistent with its approved budget.

(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a grant under this section is available for three years from the date of the grant if the district or charter school meets the annual benchmarks in its plan under subdivision 1.

History: 2006 c 282 art 4 s 1; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 7; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 10; 1Sp2021 c 13 art 2 s 1

120B.14 ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDIT.

A district must grant academic credit to a pupil attending an accelerated or advanced academic course offered by a higher education institution or a nonprofit public agency other than the district, if the pupil successfully completes the course attended and passes an examination approved by the district. If no comparable course is offered by the district, the commissioner shall determine the number of credits which shall be granted to a pupil who successfully completes and passes the course. If a comparable course is

offered by the district, the board must grant a comparable number of credits to the pupil. If there is a dispute between the district and the pupil regarding the number of credits granted for a particular course, the pupil may appeal the school board's decision to the commissioner. The commissioner's decision regarding the number of credits shall be final.

The credits granted to a pupil shall be counted toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the district. Evidence of successful completion of each class and credits granted shall be included in the pupil's secondary school record.

History: 1984 c 463 art 7 s 8; 1993 c 224 art 13 s 21; 1998 c 397 art 2 s 74,164

120B.15 GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

(a) School districts may identify students, locally develop programs and services addressing instructional and affective needs, provide staff development, and evaluate programs to provide gifted and talented students with challenging and appropriate educational programs and services.

(b) School districts must adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying students for participation in gifted and talented programs and services consistent with section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2). The guidelines should include the use of:

(1) multiple and objective criteria; and

(2) assessments and procedures that are valid and reliable, fair, and based on current theory and research. Assessments and procedures should be sensitive to underrepresented groups, including, but not limited to, low-income, minority, twice-exceptional, and English learners.

(c) School districts must adopt procedures for the academic acceleration of gifted and talented students consistent with section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2). These procedures must include how the district will:

(1) assess a student's readiness and motivation for acceleration; and

(2) match the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to a student to achieve the best type of academic acceleration for that student.

(d) School districts must adopt procedures consistent with section 124D.02, subdivision 1, for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted and talented learners consistent with section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2). The procedures must be sensitive to underrepresented groups.

History: 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 17; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 8; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 10; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 14; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 12

120B.16 SECONDARY CREDIT FOR STUDENTS.

A student who satisfactorily completes a high school course shall receive secondary course credit and the credit shall count toward the student's graduation requirements.

History: 1993 c 224 art 9 s 35; 1996 c 412 art 7 s 12; 1998 c 397 art 9 s 26

120B.18 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

Satisfactory completion of courses in American sign language in a public elementary or secondary school shall be accorded equal standing with satisfactory completion of courses in any world language.

History: *1Sp1997 c 4 art 2 s 37; 1998 c 397 art 9 s 26*

120B.19 [Repealed, 2014 c 272 art 8 s 4]**120B.20 PARENTAL CURRICULUM REVIEW.**

Each school district shall have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or to an adult student and, if the parent, guardian, or adult student objects to the content, to make reasonable arrangements with school personnel for alternative instruction. Alternative instruction may be provided by the parent, guardian, or adult student if the alternative instruction, if any, offered by the school board does not meet the concerns of the parent, guardian, or adult student. The school board is not required to pay for the costs of alternative instruction provided by a parent, guardian, or adult student. School personnel may not impose an academic or other penalty upon a student merely for arranging alternative instruction under this section. School personnel may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work.

History: *1993 c 224 art 12 s 29; 1998 c 397 art 6 s 124*

120B.21 MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION.

(a) School districts and charter schools are encouraged to provide mental health instruction for students in grades 4 through 12 aligned with local health standards and integrated into existing programs, curriculum, or the general school environment of a district or charter school. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of human services, commissioner of health, and mental health organizations, must, by July 1, 2020, and July 1 of each even-numbered year thereafter, provide districts and charter schools with resources gathered by Minnesota mental health advocates, including:

(1) age-appropriate model learning activities for grades 4 through 12 that encompass the mental health components of the National Health Education Standards and the benchmarks developed by the department's quality teaching network in health and best practices in mental health education; and

(2) a directory of resources for planning and implementing age-appropriate mental health curriculum and instruction in grades 4 through 12 that includes resources on suicide and self-harm prevention. A district or charter school providing instruction or presentations on preventing suicide or self-harm must use either the resources provided by the commissioner or other evidence-based instruction.

(b) Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, school districts and charter schools must provide mental health instruction in accordance with paragraph (a).

History: *2013 c 116 art 2 s 11; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 5 s 1; 1Sp2021 c 13 art 6 s 1; 2024 c 109 art 8 s 2*

120B.215 EDUCATION ON CANNABIS USE AND SUBSTANCE USE.

Subdivision 1. **Model program.** The commissioner of education, in consultation with the commissioners of health and human services, local district and school health education specialists, and other qualified experts, shall identify one or more model programs that may be used to educate middle school and high school students on the health effects on children and adolescents of cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, consistent with local standards as

required in section 120B.021, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (6), for elementary and secondary school students. The commissioner must publish a list of model programs that include written materials, resources, and training for instructors by June 1, 2025. A model program identified by the commissioner must be medically accurate, age and developmentally appropriate, culturally inclusive, and grounded in science, and must address:

(1) the physical and mental health effects of cannabis use and substance use by children, adolescents, and persons under 25 years of age, including effects on the developing brains of children, adolescents, and persons under 25 years of age;

(2) unsafe or unhealthy behaviors associated with cannabis use and substance use;

(3) signs of substance use disorders;

(4) treatment options; and

(5) healthy coping strategies for children and adolescents.

Subd. 2. **School programs.** (a) Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, a school district or charter school must implement a comprehensive education program on cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, for students in middle school and high school. The program must include instruction on the topics listed in subdivision 1 and must:

(1) respect community values and encourage students to communicate with parents, guardians, and other trusted adults about cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl; and

(2) refer students to local resources where students may obtain medically accurate information about cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, and treatment for a substance use disorder.

(b) District efforts to develop, implement, or improve instruction or curriculum as a result of the provisions of this section must be consistent with sections 120B.10 and 120B.11.

Subd. 3. **Parental review.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, each school district shall have a procedure for a parent, a guardian, or an adult student 18 years of age or older to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or to an adult student pursuant to this section. The district or charter school must allow a parent or adult student to opt out of instruction under this section with no academic or other penalty for the student and must inform parents and adult students of this right to opt out.

Subd. 4. **Youth council.** A school district or charter school may establish one or more youth councils in which student members of the council receive education and training on cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, and provide peer-to-peer education on these topics.

History: 2023 c 63 art 6 s 7

120B.22 VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION.

Subdivision 1. **Violence prevention curriculum.** (a) The commissioner of education, in consultation with the commissioners of health and human services, state minority councils, battered women's and domestic abuse programs, battered women's shelters, sexual assault centers, representatives of religious communities,

and the assistant commissioner of the Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention, shall assist districts on request in developing or implementing a violence prevention program for students in kindergarten to grade 12 that can be integrated into existing curriculum. The purpose of the program is to help students learn how to resolve conflicts within their families and communities in nonviolent, effective ways.

(b) Each district is encouraged to integrate into its existing curriculum a program for violence prevention that includes at least:

(1) a comprehensive, accurate, and age appropriate curriculum on violence prevention, nonviolent conflict resolution, sexual, racial, and cultural harassment, self-protection, and student hazing that promotes equality, respect, understanding, effective communication, individual responsibility, thoughtful decision making, positive conflict resolution, useful coping skills, critical thinking, listening and watching skills, and personal safety;

(2) planning materials, guidelines, and other accurate information on preventing physical and emotional violence, identifying and reducing the incidence of sexual, racial, and cultural harassment, and reducing child abuse and neglect;

(3) a special parent education component of early childhood family education programs to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote positive parenting skills, giving priority to services and outreach programs for at-risk families;

(4) involvement of parents and other community members, including the clergy, business representatives, civic leaders, local elected officials, law enforcement officials, and the county attorney;

(5) collaboration with local community services, agencies, and organizations that assist in violence intervention or prevention, including family-based services, crisis services, life management skills services, case coordination services, mental health services, and early intervention services;

(6) collaboration among districts and service cooperatives;

(7) targeting early adolescents for prevention efforts, especially early adolescents whose personal circumstances may lead to violent or harassing behavior;

(8) opportunities for teachers to receive in-service training or attend other programs on strategies or curriculum designed to assist students in intervening in or preventing violence in school and at home; and

(9) administrative policies that reflect, and a staff that models, nonviolent behaviors that do not display or condone sexual, racial, or cultural harassment or student hazing.

(c) The department may provide assistance at a neutral site to a nonpublic school participating in a district's program.

Subd. 2. In-service training. Each district is encouraged to provide training for district staff and school board members on the following:

(1) helping students identify violence in the family and the community so that students may learn to resolve conflicts in effective, nonviolent ways;

(2) responding to a disclosure of child sexual abuse in a supportive, appropriate manner; and

(3) complying with mandatory reporting requirements under chapter 260E.

The in-service training must be ongoing and involve experts familiar with sexual abuse, domestic violence, and personal safety issues.

Subd. 3. **Funding sources.** Districts may accept funds from public and private sources for violence prevention programs developed and implemented under this section.

History: 1992 c 571 art 10 s 6; 1994 c 647 art 4 s 34; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13; 1996 c 305 art 1 s 138; 1Sp1997 c 4 art 7 s 9; 1998 c 397 art 3 s 92,103; 2000 c 445 art 2 s 6; 2003 c 130 s 12; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 18; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 11; 1Sp2020 c 2 art 8 s 13

120B.23 VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS.

Subdivision 1. **Grant program established.** The commissioner of education, after consulting with the assistant commissioner of the Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention, shall establish a violence prevention education grant program to enable a school district, an education district, or a group of districts that cooperate for a particular purpose to develop and implement or to continue a violence prevention program for students in kindergarten through grade 12 that can be integrated into existing curriculum. A district or group of districts that elects to develop and implement or to continue a violence prevention program under section 120B.22 is eligible to apply for a grant under this section.

Subd. 2. **Grant application.** To be eligible to receive a grant, a school district, an education district, a service cooperative, or a group of districts that cooperate for a particular purpose must submit an application to the commissioner in the form and manner and according to the timeline established by the commissioner. The application must describe how the applicant will: (1) continue or integrate into its existing K-12 curriculum a program for violence prevention that contains the program components listed in section 120B.22; (2) collaborate with local organizations involved in violence prevention and intervention; and (3) structure the program to reflect the characteristics of the children, their families and the community involved in the program. The commissioner may require additional information from the applicant. When reviewing the applications, the commissioner shall determine whether the applicant has met the requirements of this subdivision.

Subd. 3. **Grant awards.** (a) The commissioner may award grants for a violence prevention education program to eligible applicants as defined in subdivision 2. Grant amounts may not exceed \$3 per resident pupil unit in the district or group of districts in the prior school year. Grant recipients should be geographically distributed throughout the state.

(b) School districts and charter schools may accept funds from private and other public sources for child sexual abuse prevention programs developed and implemented under sections 120B.021, subdivision 1, paragraph (d), and 120B.234, including federal funding under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Subd. 4. **Grant proceeds.** A successful applicant must use the grant money to develop and implement or to continue a violence prevention program according to the terms of the grant application.

History: 1992 c 571 art 10 s 30; 1994 c 576 s 2; 1994 c 647 art 4 s 35; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 9 s 29; art 16 s 13; 1998 c 397 art 3 s 93,103; art 11 s 3; 2003 c 130 s 12; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 12

120B.232 CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION.

Subdivision 1. **Character development education.** (a) Character education is the shared responsibility of parents, teachers, and members of the community. The legislature encourages districts to integrate or offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for

others, peacemaking, and resourcefulness. Instruction should be integrated into a district's existing programs, curriculum, or the general school environment. To the extent practicable, instruction should be integrated into positive behavioral intervention strategies, under section 122A.627. The commissioner shall provide assistance at the request of a district to develop character education curriculum and programs.

(b) Character development education under paragraph (a) may include a voluntary elementary, middle, and high school program that incorporates the history and values of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and may be offered as part of the social studies, English language arts, or other curriculum, as a schoolwide character building and veteran awareness initiative, or as an after-school program, among other possibilities.

Subd. 1a. **Staff development; continuing education.** (a) Staff development opportunities under section 122A.60 may include training in character development education that incorporates the history and values of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients under subdivision 1, paragraph (b), and is provided without cost to the interested school or district.

(b) Local continuing education and relicensure committees or other local relicensure committees under section 122A.187, subdivision 3, are encouraged to approve up to six clock hours of continuing education for licensed teachers who complete the training in character development education under paragraph (a).

Subd. 2. **Funding sources.** The commissioner must first use federal funds for character development education programs to the extent available under United States Code, title 20, section 7247. Districts may accept funds from private and other public sources for character development education programs developed and implemented under this section, including programs funded through the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, among other sources.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 19; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 15; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 13; 2018 c 182 art 1 s 14*

120B.233 [Repealed, 2007 c 146 art 2 s 48]

120B.234 CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this section, which may be cited as "Erin's Law," is to encourage districts to integrate or offer instruction on child sexual abuse prevention to students and training to all school personnel on recognizing and preventing sexual abuse and sexual violence.

Subd. 2. **Curriculum.** School districts may consult with other federal, state, or local agencies and community-based organizations, including the Child Welfare Information Gateway website maintained by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, to identify research-based tools, curricula, and programs to prevent child sexual abuse for use under section 120B.021, subdivision 1, paragraph (d).

Subd. 3. **Other state programs.** The child sexual abuse prevention instruction provided under this section is part of preventing sexual violence against children, which includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- (1) training on mandated reporting requirements provided on the Department of Education's website;
- (2) the Code of Ethics for Minnesota Teachers; and
- (3) consultation by the commissioner of education with the commissioners of health, human services, and public safety, and other state agencies to prevent violence against children.

History: *1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 14; 2018 c 182 art 1 s 15*

120B.235 AMERICAN HERITAGE EDUCATION.

(a) School districts shall permit grade-level instruction for students to read and study America's founding documents, including documents that contributed to the foundation or maintenance of America's representative form of limited government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system, and patriotism.

(b) Districts may not censor or restrain instruction in American or Minnesota state history or heritage based on religious references in original source documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 20*

120B.236 CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION AND AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR INSTRUCTION.

(a) School districts must provide onetime cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator instruction as part of their grade 7 to 12 curriculum for all students in that grade beginning in the 2014-2015 school year and later. Training and instruction provided under this section need not result in cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator instruction must include cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator training that has been developed:

(1) by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross and incorporate psychomotor skills to support the instruction; or

(2) using nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and incorporates psychomotor skills to support the instruction.

"Psychomotor skills" under this paragraph means hands-on practice to support cognitive learning; it does not mean cognitive-only instruction and training.

(b) School districts may use community members such as emergency medical technicians, paramedics, police officers, firefighters, and representatives of the Minnesota Resuscitation Consortium, the American Heart Association, or the American Red Cross, among others, to provide instruction and training under this section. Community members are encouraged to provide needed training and instructional resources such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation kits and other materials at no cost to the school districts. A school administrator may waive this curriculum requirement for a high school transfer student regardless of whether or not the student previously received instruction under this section, an enrolled student absent on the day the instruction occurred under this section, or an eligible student who has a disability. If a school district requests resources, the Minnesota Resuscitation Consortium must provide them to the district for instruction and training provided to students under this section.

History: *2009 c 107 s 1; 2012 c 206 s 1*

120B.238 VAPING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION.

Subdivision 1. **Title.** This section may be referred to as the "Vaping Awareness and Prevention Act."

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the words defined in this subdivision have the meanings given them.

(b) "Electronic delivery device" has the meaning given in section 609.685, subdivision 1.

(c) "Heated tobacco product" means a tobacco product that produces aerosols containing nicotine and other chemicals which are inhaled by users through the mouth.

(d) "Public school" means a school district or a charter school.

(e) "Vaping" means using an activated electronic delivery device or heated tobacco product.

Subd. 3. **School instruction requirements.** (a) A public school must provide vaping prevention instruction at least once to students in grades 6 through 8. A public school may use instructional materials based on the Department of Health's e-cigarette toolkit or may use other smoking prevention instructional materials with a focus on vaping and the use of electronic delivery devices and heated tobacco products. The instruction may be provided as a part of a public school's locally developed health standards.

(b) A public school is strongly encouraged to provide evidence-based vaping prevention instruction to students in grades 9 through 12.

(c) A public school is encouraged to use a peer-to-peer education program to provide vaping prevention instruction.

Subd. 4. **Student survey.** The commissioner of education must include questions regarding tobacco use and vaping in the Minnesota student survey.

History: *1Sp2020 c 8 art 3 s 1*

120B.24 [Repealed, 2014 c 272 art 8 s 4]

120B.241 COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) "Computer science" means the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their implementation, and their impact on society.

(b) "Computer science courses and content" means courses at:

(1) elementary and middle schools that teach computer science as standalone implementations or embedded in other subjects; and

(2) high schools that teach computer science as standalone courses and focus on teaching students how to create new technologies.

(c) "High-quality computer science educator training" means activities that:

(1) clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;

(2) teach research-based practices, including hands-on and inquiry-based learning;

(3) are primarily intended for existing teachers with or without prior exposure to computer science with options for advanced training for teachers; and

(4) align to existing integrated computer science standards in Minnesota or nationally recognized standards, including the Computer Science Teachers' Association's kindergarten through grade 12 computer science education standards.

(d) "High-quality computer science professional learning providers" means institutions of higher education, nonprofits, other state-funded entities, or private entities that have successfully designed,

implemented, and scaled high-quality computer science professional learning for teachers as defined in paragraph (c).

(e) "STEAM" means science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

Subd. 2. **Computer science education supervisor.** The Department of Education must employ a computer science supervisor dedicated to:

(1) the implementation of this section and the implementation of the computer science education strategic plan developed by the working group under subdivision 3;

(2) outreach to districts that need additional supports to create or advance their computer science programs; and

(3) supporting districts in using existing and available resources for districts to create and advance their computer science programs.

Subd. 3. **Computer science working group.** (a) The Department of Education shall establish a computer science education working group to develop a state strategic plan for long-term and sustained growth of computer science education in all kindergarten through grade 12 school districts and charter schools. The commissioner of education must appoint members of the working group by October 1, 2023.

(b) Demographics of the working group must be inclusive and represent the diversity of the state, including but not limited to racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity, and diversity related to gender and sexual orientation.

(c) Meetings of the advisory committee are subject to the Open Meeting Law under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

(d) The computer science education advisory committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) the commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;

(2) the commissioner of higher education or the commissioner's designee;

(3) one representative of the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board;

(4) one representative of the Computer Science Teachers Association of Minnesota;

(5) one representative from the business community employing computer scientists or technologists;

(6) one representative from the Minnesota Technology Association;

(7) one representative from a nonprofit organization working with students and teachers in computer science;

(8) one representative from the Minnesota Association of School Administrators;

(9) one representative from Education Minnesota;

(10) one representative from the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education;

(11) one representative from CSforAll Minnesota;

(12) one licensed library media specialist;

(13) one representative from the Minnesota School Boards Association;

(14) one representative from SciMathMN;

(15) one representative from the Tribal Nations Education Committee;

(16) one high school student enrolled in a school with fewer than 1,000 students and one high school student enrolled in a school with more than 1,000 students; and

(17) four computer science teachers that teach at schools of different sizes, including at least one teacher of students in kindergarten to grade 5, one teacher of students in grades 6 to 8, and one teacher of students in grades 9 to 12, and one career and technical education teacher.

(e) The computer science education working group shall develop a state strategic plan for a statewide computer science education program that includes but is not limited to:

(1) a statement of purpose that describes the objectives or goals the Department of Education will accomplish by implementing a computer science education program, the strategies by which those goals will be achieved, and a timeline for achieving those goals;

(2) a summary of the current state landscape for kindergarten through grade 12 computer science education, including diversity of students taking these courses;

(3) the creation or expansion of flexible options to license computer science teachers, which may include approval codes, technical permits, ancillary licenses, and standard licenses;

(4) a description of how the state will support the expansion of computer science education opportunities in every public school and public charter school in the state within five years, with a focus on ensuring equitable access;

(5) identifying high-quality computer science professional learning providers for teachers;

(6) an ongoing evaluation process that is overseen by the Department of Education;

(7) proposed rules that incorporate the principles of the state strategic plan into the state's public education system as a whole;

(8) recommendations for long-term expansion and sustainability of computer science education, including:

(i) implementation of a requirement that every kindergarten through grade 12 public school and public charter school employs at least one certified or endorsed computer science teacher, which may be met through multiple approved processes for certification and endorsement, including but not limited to endorsing a certified teacher as determined by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board endorsed in another subject area;

(ii) expansion of a high school credit equivalency for computer science;

(iii) the development of standalone kindergarten through grade 12 standards for computer science; and

(iv) training preservice teachers in computer science education; and

(9) a description of existing gaps in computer science education access, participation, and success by geography and subgroup of students and a description of how to equitably address these gaps.

(f) By February 29, 2024, the Department of Education shall publish the proposed state strategic plan for public feedback.

(g) By March 22, 2024, the Department of Education shall present the adopted state strategic plan described in paragraph (e) to the chairs of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over education.

(h) The commissioner of education, or the commissioner of education's designee, may approve updates and changes to the state strategic plan described in paragraph (e) as necessary for the successful implementation of kindergarten through grade 12 computer science education.

(i) The Department of Education shall update the legislative committees with jurisdiction over education on all changes to the strategic plan described in paragraph (e) approved by the commissioner of education's designee since the last presentation to each respective entity.

Subd. 4. Computer science educator training and capacity building. (a) The Department of Education shall develop and implement, or award grants or subcontract with eligible entities, for the development and implementation of high-quality, coordinated teacher recruitment and educator training programs for computer science courses and content as defined in subdivision 1 and aligned to the state strategic plan as developed under subdivision 3.

(b) For the purposes of this subdivision, eligible entities include:

(1) a consortium of local educational agencies in the state; and

(2) high-quality computer science professional learning providers, including institutions of higher education in the state that are reasonably accessible geographically to all Minnesota educators, nonprofits, other state-funded entities, or private entities working in partnership with a consortium of local educational agencies.

(c) For purposes of this subdivision, eligible uses of funding include:

(1) high-quality professional learning opportunities for kindergarten through grade 12 computer science content that:

(i) are created and delivered in a consistent manner across the state;

(ii) are made available with no out-of-pocket expenses to educators, including teachers, counselors, administrators, and other district employees as approved by the Department of Education, schools, and school districts;

(iii) are made available asynchronously online, in person, and online or hybrid as determined appropriate by the Department of Education; and

(iv) include introductory, intermediate, and advanced trainings aligned to the kindergarten through grade 12 academic standards or, as necessary, other standards approved by the Department of Education, specified for each of the grade bands kindergarten through grade 2, grades 3 to 5, grades 6 to 8, and grades 9 to 12;

(2) professional learning opportunities for educators of students in grades 9 to 12 that may include trainings for advanced placement, international baccalaureate, and concurrent enrollment credit computer science courses;

(3) travel expenses for kindergarten through grade 12 computer science teachers:

(i) for attending training opportunities under clauses (1) and (2); and

(ii) deemed appropriate and approved by the commissioner of education, or the commissioner of education's designee;

(4) any future credentialing for kindergarten through grade 12 computer science teachers, including Career and Technical Education and academic endorsements;

(5) supports for kindergarten through grade 12 computer science professional learning, including mentoring and coaching;

(6) creation and deployment of resources to promote training opportunities and recruitment of kindergarten through grade 12 computer science teachers;

(7) creation or purchase of resources to support implementation approved by the commissioner of education, or the commissioner of education's designee;

(8) creation and deployment of resources to promote learning opportunities or recruit students to engage in the learning opportunities;

(9) development of teacher credentialing programs;

(10) planning for districts to implement or expand computer science education opportunities; and

(11) employment, or grant for employment, of personnel or contractors to oversee the statewide initiative, develop programs and trainings, and deliver training opportunities under clause (1).

(d) As a condition of receiving any funding through grants or subcontracts, eligible entities must submit an application to the Department of Education. The application must, at a minimum, address how the entity will:

(1) reach new and existing teachers with little to no computer science background;

(2) attract and support educators from schools that currently do not have established computer science education programs;

(3) use research- or evidence-based practices for high-quality professional development;

(4) focus the professional learning on the conceptual foundations of computer science;

(5) reach and support subgroups underrepresented in computer science;

(6) provide teachers with concrete experience through hands-on, inquiry-based practices;

(7) accommodate the particular teacher and student needs in each district and school; and

(8) ensure that participating districts begin offering courses or content within the same or subsequent school year after the teacher receives the professional learning.

(e) The Department of Education shall prioritize the following applications:

(1) consortiums of local educational agencies that are working in partnership with providers of high-quality professional learning for kindergarten through grade 12 computer science;

(2) proposals that describe strategies to increase enrollment overall, including but not limited to subgroups of students that are traditionally underrepresented in computer science; and

(3) proposals from rural or urban areas with a low penetration of kindergarten through grade 12 computer science offerings, including local education consortiums within these areas.

(f) The award recipient shall report, for all funding received under this section annually, at a minimum:

(1) the number of teachers:

(i) trained within each elementary, middle, and high school; and

(ii) trained within trainings offered as outlined in paragraph (c), clause (1), item (iv);

(2) the number of trainings offered in advanced placement, international baccalaureate, and concurrent enrollment credit computer science courses; and

(3) the number of teachers, and percentage of teachers trained, that started implementing computer science courses limited to middle and high school implementation.

(g) The Department of Education shall make these reports public. The publicly released data shall not include student-level personally identifiable information.

Subd. 5. **Teacher preparation.** On and after July 1, 2027, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in computer science as applied to student learning and classroom instruction that are grade-level and subject-area appropriate.

Subd. 6. **Computer science education data collection.** (a) The Department of Education shall require all high schools to report data and information about computer science course offerings and enrollment.

(b) The Department of Education shall develop a plan for the secure and regular reporting of computer science course offerings and enrollment data from schools with kindergarten to grade 8 bands within 90 days of enactment of this act.

(c) Data collected in processes described in paragraphs (a) and (b) should be disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, free and reduced-price meals status, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act status, 504 status, and English language learner status.

Subd. 7. **Adoption of rules.** The Department of Education and Professional Educator Standards and Licensing Board may adopt rules under this section, including rules for flexible options to license computer science teachers, approval codes, technical permits, ancillary licenses, and standard licenses.

History: 2023 c 55 art 2 s 61; art 9 s 19

120B.25 ETHNIC STUDIES.

"Ethnic studies" means the interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity with a focus on the experiences and perspectives of people of color within and beyond the United States. Ethnic studies analyzes the ways in which race and racism have been and continue to be social, cultural, and political forces, and the connection of race to the stratification of other groups, including stratification based on the protected classes under section 363A.13.

History: 2023 c 55 art 2 s 13

120B.251 ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** "Ethnic studies" has the meaning provided in section 120B.25.

Subd. 2. **Requirements.** (a) Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, a district or charter school high school must offer an ethnic studies course that fulfills the requirements of this paragraph. Nothing in this section increases or otherwise affects the number of credits required for graduation under section 120B.024. An ethnic studies course may fulfill a social studies, language arts, arts, math, or science credit if the course meets the applicable state academic standards. An ethnic studies course may fulfill an elective credit if the course meets applicable local academic standards or other requirements.

(b) School districts and charter schools must provide ethnic studies instruction in elementary schools and middle schools by the 2027-2028 school year in accordance with state academic standards.

(c) Ethnic studies instruction must meet statewide ethnic studies academic standards.

(d) An ethnic studies course may focus specifically on a particular group of national or ethnic origin.

Subd. 3. **Department of Education.** The Department of Education must hire dedicated ethnic studies staff sufficient to fulfill the following department duties:

(1) support school district and charter school implementation of ethnic studies courses that fulfill ethnic studies standards through activities such as assistance with increased completion of the Minnesota Common Course Catalog, hosting an annual implementation support symposium, and regular updates and lessons learned;

(2) support school districts and charter schools in providing training for teachers and school district staff to successfully implement ethnic studies standards;

(3) support and provide tools for each school district or charter school to annually evaluate the implementation of the ethnic studies requirements by seeking feedback from students, parents or guardians, and community members;

(4) provide resources and examples of how a dedicated coordinator for ethnic studies can facilitate higher quality implementation of ethnic studies; and

(5) make available to school districts and charter schools the following:

(i) an ethnic studies school survey for each school district and charter school to use as part of a school needs assessment;

(ii) a list of recommended examples of implementation supports for use in kindergarten through grade 12 that accurately reflect the diversity of the state of Minnesota;

(iii) training materials for teachers and district and school staff, including an ethnic studies coordinator, to implement ethnic studies requirements; and

(iv) other resources to assist districts and charter schools in successfully implementing ethnic studies standards.

History: 2023 c 55 art 2 s 14

120B.252 HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND OTHER GENOCIDE EDUCATION.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) "Holocaust and genocide studies" means interdisciplinary teaching and learning about the causes, impacts, and legacies of the Holocaust, other genocides, and incidents of mass violence.

(b) "Holocaust" means the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of 6,000,000 Jews by the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators.

(c) "Genocide" means an internationally recognized crime where acts are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. Acts of genocide, as defined by the United Nations and the Rome Statute, include the following categories:

- (1) killing members of the group;
- (2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (3) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (4) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; or
- (5) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Genocide also means a series of purposeful actions by a perpetrator or perpetrators to destroy a collectivity through mass or selective murders of group members and suppressing the biological and social reproduction of the collectivity. The perpetrator or perpetrators may represent the state of the victim, another state, or another collectivity.

(d) "Incidents of mass violence" means extreme violence deliberately inflicted on a large scale on civilians or noncombatants by state or nonstate actors. Incidents of mass violence encompass the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and terrorism.

(e) "Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies" means the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota.

Subd. 2. **Requirements.** (a) A school district must, at a minimum, offer as part of its social studies curriculum for middle and high school education on the Holocaust, genocide of Indigenous Peoples, and other genocides. Curriculum must:

- (1) examine the history of the genocide of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous removal from Minnesota, including the genocide, dispossession, and forced removal of the Dakota, Ojibwe, and Ho-Chunk;
- (2) analyze the connections between World War II, nationalism, fascism, antisemitism, and the Holocaust;
- (3) analyze how individuals, groups, and societies around the world have been affected by genocide and mass violence, especially those experienced by communities expelled from, resettled in, migrated to, or living in Minnesota; and
- (4) describe and evaluate different responses to genocides and other human rights violations.

(b) Public schools are strongly encouraged to include in middle and high school social studies curriculum context about the history, culture, and traditions of the communities devastated by the Holocaust, genocide of Indigenous Peoples, other genocides, and incidents of mass violence.

(c) School districts are strongly encouraged to include the Holocaust, genocide of Indigenous Peoples, other genocides, and incidents of mass violence in middle and high school English language arts curriculum.

(d) A school district must provide Holocaust and genocide education as part of its curriculum in middle and high school by the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with Department of Education rulemaking on social studies standards and benchmarks.

History: 2023 c 55 art 2 s 15

ASSESSMENT; ACCOUNTABILITY

120B.299 MS 2018 [Repealed, 1Sp2019 c 11 art 2 s 34]

120B.30 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS; STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS.

Subdivision 1. (a) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 11, para (b); 120B.302, subd 2]

(b) [Renumbered 120B.302, subd 3, para (a)]

(c) [Renumbered 120B.303, subdivision 1]

(d) [Renumbered 120B.303, subd 2; 120B.307, subd 2]

(e) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 16]

(f) [Renumbered 120B.307, subd 3]

(g) [Renumbered 120B.307, subd 4, para (a)]

(h) [Renumbered 120B.307, subd 4, para (b)]

(i) [Renumbered 120B.303, subd 3]

(j) [Renumbered 120B.307, subd 4, para (c)]

(k) [Renumbered 120B.307, subd 4, para (d)]

(l) [Renumbered 120B.307, subd 4, para (e)]

(m) [Renumbered 120B.305, subd 2, para (b)]

(n) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 11, para (a); 120B.302 subd 3, para (b); 120B.305, subd 2, para (c)]

(o) [Renumbered 120B.305, subd 3, para (a)]

(p) [Renumbered 120B.307, subdivision 1]

(q) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 8]

Subd. 1a. (a) [Renumbered 120B.302, subdivision 1]

(b) [Renumbered 120B.302, subd 3, para (c)]

(c) [Renumbered 120B.302, subd 3, para (d)]

(d) [Renumbered 120B.305, subd 2, para (a)]

(e) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 12, para (a)]

(f) [Renumbered 120B.305, subdivision 1]

(g) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 9]

(h) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 7]

Subd. 1b. [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 10]

Subd. 2. (a) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 12, para (b)]

(b) [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 12, para (c)]

[Renumbered 120B.30, subd 12, para (d)]

Subd. 3. [Renumbered 120B.305, subd 3, para (b)]

Subd. 4. [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 13]

Subd. 5. [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 14]

Subd. 6. [Renumbered 120B.30, subd 15]

Subd. 7. **Assessments.** A student who demonstrates attainment of required state academic standards, which include career and college readiness benchmarks, on high school assessments under section 120B.302 is academically ready for a career or college and is encouraged to participate in courses awarding college credit to high school students. Such courses and programs may include sequential courses of study within broad career areas and technical skill assessments that extend beyond course grades.

Subd. 8. **Cultural competence.** For purposes of statewide accountability, "cultural competence," "cultural competency," or "culturally competent" means the ability of families and educators to interact effectively with people of different cultures, native languages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Subd. 9. **Accommodations.** Consistent with applicable federal law, the commissioner must include appropriate, technically sound accommodations or alternative assessments for the very few students with disabilities for whom statewide assessments are inappropriate and for English learners.

Subd. 10. **Unable to test.** The Department of Education shall develop a list of circumstances in which a student may be unable to test. The list shall include but not be limited to: students transferring to Minnesota from another state, students transferring from nonpublic to public school and students hospitalized. Students unable to participate in statewide assessment due to a circumstance on the list authorized under this subdivision shall not be penalized for missing the opportunity to take a test.

Subd. 11. **Testing process.** (a) The commissioner must determine the testing process and the order of administration.

(b) The commissioner must establish a testing period as late as possible each school year during which schools must administer the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments to students. The commissioner must publish the testing schedule at least two years before the beginning of the testing period.

Subd. 12. **Test administration.** (a) The Department of Education shall contract for professional and technical services according to competitive solicitation procedures under chapter 16C for purposes of this section.

(b) A proposal submitted under this section must include disclosures containing:

(1) comprehensive information regarding test administration monitoring practices; and

(2) data privacy safeguards for student information to be transmitted to or used by the proposing entity.

(c) Information provided in the proposal is not security information or trade secret information for purposes of section 13.37.

Subd. 13. **Parental review.** Consistent with section 13.34, the commissioner must adopt and publish a policy to provide public and parental access for review of Minnesota-developed assessments which would not compromise the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process. Upon receiving a written request, the commissioner must make available to parents or guardians a copy of their student's actual responses to the test questions for their review.

Subd. 14. **Suspension of assessments.** In the event that it becomes necessary for the commissioner to order the suspension of assessments under this section because of service disruptions, technical interruptions, or any other reason beyond the control of school districts, the commissioner must immediately notify the chair and ranking member of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education.

Subd. 15. **Disruptions.** The commissioner shall establish a reporting system for teachers, administrators, and students to report service disruptions and technical interruptions. The information reported through this system shall be maintained in a database accessible through the department's website.

Subd. 16. **College entrance exam.** Though not a high school graduation requirement, students are encouraged to participate in a nationally recognized college entrance exam. To the extent state funding for college entrance exam fees is available, a district must pay the cost, one time, for an interested student in grade 11 or 12 who is eligible for a free or reduced-price meal, to take a nationally recognized college entrance exam before graduating. A student must be able to take the exam under this paragraph at the student's high school during the school day and at any one of the multiple exam administrations available to students in the district. A district may administer the ACT or SAT or both the ACT and SAT to comply with this paragraph. If the district administers only one of these two tests and a free or reduced-price meal eligible student opts not to take that test and chooses instead to take the other of the two tests, the student may take the other test at a different time or location and remains eligible for the examination fee reimbursement. Notwithstanding sections 123B.34 to 123B.39, a school district may require a student that is not eligible for a free or reduced-price meal to pay the cost of taking a nationally recognized college entrance exam. The district must waive the cost for a student unable to pay.

Subd. 17. **Retaliation prohibited.** An employee who discloses information to the commissioner or a parent or guardian about service disruptions or technical interruptions related to administering assessments under this section is protected under section 181.932, governing disclosure of information by employees.

History: 1997 c 138 s 1; 1998 c 386 art 2 s 38; 1998 c 397 art 4 s 2,51; art 11 s 3; 1998 c 398 art 5 s 8; 1999 c 241 art 9 s 3; 2000 c 489 art 6 s 2; 2000 c 500 s 15; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 4; 2003 c 129 art 1 s 7,8; 2003 c 130 s 12; 2004 c 294 art 6 s 2; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 21-23; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 9; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 8; 2010 c 382 s 21,22; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 2 s 4-6; art 3 s 12; 2012 c 239 art 1 s 33; art 2 s 4; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 12,13; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 8; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 6; art 3 s 7-11; art 4 s 10; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 16-18; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 15; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 2 s 3; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 16,17,65; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 10-12

120B.301 [Renumbered 120B.306, subdivision 1]

120B.302 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS; TEST DESIGN.

Subdivision 1. **Developing assessments.** For purposes of conforming with existing federal educational accountability requirements, the commissioner must develop and implement computer-adaptive reading and

mathematics assessments for grades 3 through 8, state-developed high school reading and mathematics tests aligned with state academic standards, a high school writing test aligned with state standards when it becomes available, and science assessments that districts and sites must use to monitor student growth toward achieving those standards. The commissioner must:

(1) not develop statewide assessments for academic standards in social studies, health and physical education, and the arts; and

(2) require annual science assessments in one grade in the grades 3 through 5 span, the grades 6 through 8 span, and a life sciences assessment in the grades 9 through 12 span, and the commissioner must not require students to achieve a passing score on high school science assessments as a condition of receiving a high school diploma.

Subd. 2. Comprehensive assessment system. The commissioner, with advice from experts with appropriate technical qualifications and experience and stakeholders, must include state-developed tests in the comprehensive assessment system. State-developed tests administered to all students in a subject other than writing must include multiple choice questions.

Subd. 3. Aligned to academic standards. (a) The state assessment system must be aligned to the most recent revision of academic standards.

(b) The commissioner must ensure that all state tests administered to elementary and secondary students measure students' academic knowledge and skills and not students' values, attitudes, and beliefs.

Subd. 4. Use of assessments. A school, school district, and charter school must administer statewide assessments under this section as the assessments become available to evaluate student progress toward career and college readiness in the context of the state's academic standards. A school, school district, or charter school may use a student's performance on a statewide assessment as one of multiple criteria to determine grade promotion or retention. A school, school district, or charter school may use a high school student's performance on a statewide assessment as a percentage of the student's final grade in a course or place a student's assessment score on the student's transcript.

History: 1997 c 138 s 1; 1998 c 397 art 4 s 2; 1998 c 398 art 5 s 8; 2000 c 489 art 6 s 2; 2000 c 500 s 15; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 4; 2003 c 129 art 1 s 7,8; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 21,22; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 9; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 8; 2012 c 239 art 2 s 4; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 12,13; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 3 s 7,8; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 16; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 15; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 2 s 3; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 65; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 13

120B.303 ASSESSMENT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. Graduation requirements. For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, students' state graduation requirements, based on a longitudinal, systematic approach to student education and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation, include the following:

(1) achievement and career and college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing, consistent with paragraph (k) and to the extent available, to monitor students' continuous development of and growth in requisite knowledge and skills; analyze students' progress and performance levels, identifying students' academic strengths and diagnosing areas where students require curriculum or instructional adjustments, targeted interventions, or remediation; and, based on analysis of students' progress and performance data, determine students' learning and instructional needs and the instructional tools and best practices that support academic rigor for the student; and

(2) consistent with this paragraph and section 120B.125, age-appropriate exploration and planning activities and career assessments to encourage students to identify personally relevant career interests and aptitudes and help students and their families develop a regularly reexamined transition plan for postsecondary education or employment without need for postsecondary remediation.

Based on appropriate state guidelines, students with an individualized education program may satisfy state graduation requirements by achieving an individual score on the state-identified alternative assessments.

Subd. 2. Targeted instruction plan. A student under subdivision 1, clause (1), must receive targeted, relevant, academically rigorous, and resourced instruction, which may include a targeted instruction and intervention plan focused on improving the student's knowledge and skills in core subjects so that the student has a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without need for postsecondary remediation. Consistent with sections 120B.13, 124D.09, 124D.091, 124D.49, and related sections, an enrolling school or district must actively encourage a student in grade 11 or 12 who is identified as academically ready for a career or college to participate in courses and programs awarding college credit to high school students. Students are not required to achieve a specified score or level of proficiency on an assessment under this subdivision to graduate from high school.

Subd. 3. Targeted instruction. As appropriate, students through grade 12 must continue to participate in targeted instruction, intervention, or remediation and be encouraged to participate in courses awarding college credit to high school students.

History: 1999 c 241 art 9 s 3; 2000 c 500 s 15; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 4; 2003 c 129 art 1 s 7; 2010 c 382 s 21; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 2 s 4; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 12; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 8; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 6; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 16; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 65

120B.304 [Renumbered 120B.306, subd 2]

120B.305 ASSESSMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. MS 2023 Supp [Repealed by amendment, 2024 c 109 art 2 s 14]

Subd. 2. Reporting requirements. (a) Reporting of state assessment results must:

(1) provide timely, useful, and understandable information on the performance of individual students, schools, school districts, and the state;

(2) include a growth indicator of student achievement; and

(3) determine whether students have met the state's academic standards.

(b) The commissioner must ensure that for annual computer-adaptive assessments:

(1) individual student performance data and achievement reports are available within three school days of when students take an assessment except in a year when an assessment reflects new performance standards;

(2) growth information is available for each student from the student's first assessment to each proximate assessment using a constant measurement scale;

(3) parents, teachers, and school administrators are able to use elementary and middle school student performance data to project students' secondary and postsecondary achievement; and

(4) useful diagnostic information about areas of students' academic strengths and weaknesses is available to teachers and school administrators for improving student instruction and indicating the specific skills and

concepts that should be introduced and developed for students at given performance levels, organized by strands within subject areas, and aligned to state academic standards.

(c) The commissioner, in consultation with the chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, must establish empirically derived benchmarks on the high school tests that reveal a trajectory toward career and college readiness consistent with section 136F.302, subdivision 1a. The commissioner must disseminate to the public the computer-adaptive assessments and high school test results upon receiving those results.

(d) A school, school district, or charter school may provide a student's parent access to the student's individual student performance data and achievement report that is made available under paragraph (b), clause (1), when the performance data and report is available to the school, school district, or charter school.

Subd. 3. Public reporting. (a) The commissioner must include the following components in the statewide public reporting system:

(1) uniform statewide computer-adaptive assessments of all students in grades 3 through 8 and testing at the high school levels that provides appropriate, technically sound accommodations or alternate assessments;

(2) educational indicators that can be aggregated and compared across school districts and across time on a statewide basis, including consistent attendance, high school graduation rates, and high school drop-out rates by age and grade level;

(3) state results on the ACT test;

(4) state results from participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress so that the state can benchmark its performance against the nation and other states, and, where possible, against other countries, and contribute to the national effort to monitor achievement; and

(5) comparison of statewide assessment results among school sites and school districts.

(b) The commissioner shall report test results publicly and to stakeholders, including the performance achievement levels developed from students' unweighted test scores in each tested subject and a listing of demographic factors that strongly correlate with student performance, including student homelessness, as data are available, among other factors. The test results must not include personally identifiable information as defined in Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, section 99.3. The commissioner shall disseminate to schools and school districts a more comprehensive report containing testing information that meets local needs for evaluating instruction and curriculum. The commissioner shall disseminate to charter school authorizers a more comprehensive report containing testing information that contains anonymized data where cell count data are sufficient to protect student identity and that meets the authorizer's needs in fulfilling its obligations under chapter 124E.

History: 2003 c 129 art 1 s 8; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 22; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 2 s 5; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 13; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 6; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 16; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 2 s 3; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 16,65; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 14

120B.306 DISTRICT ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. Test limits and calendar. (a) For students in grades 1 through 6, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed ten hours per school year. For students in grades 7 through 12, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 11 hours per school year. For

purposes of this paragraph, international baccalaureate and advanced placement exams are not considered locally adopted assessments.

(b) A district or charter school is exempt from the requirements of paragraph (a), if the district or charter school, in consultation with the exclusive representative of the teachers or other teachers if there is no exclusive representative of the teachers, decides to exceed a time limit in paragraph (a) and includes the information in the report required under section 120B.11, subdivision 5.

(c) A district or charter school must publish on its website a comprehensive calendar of standardized tests to be administered in the district or charter school during that school year. The calendar must provide the rationale for administering each assessment and indicate whether the assessment is a local option or required by state or federal law. The calendar must be published at least one week prior to any eligible assessments being administered but no later than October 1.

Subd. 2. District assessment committee. (a) A school district that does not have an agreement between the school board and the exclusive representative of the teachers about selecting assessments must establish a district assessment committee to advise the school board on administering standardized assessments to students in addition to the assessments required under sections 120B.30 and 120B.302 and applicable federal law unless paragraph (b) applies. The committee must include an equal number of teachers and administrators and at least one parent of a student in the district and may include at least one representative from each school site in the district.

(b) A school district may seek this assessment advice from the district advisory committee under section 120B.11, subdivision 3, instead of establishing a committee under this section.

History: *1Sp2015 c 3 art 3 s 12; 2016 c 158 art 1 s 38; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 19,20; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 18,65*

120B.307 COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS.

Subdivision 1. Definition. For purposes of statewide accountability, "career and college ready" means a high school graduate has the knowledge, skills, and competencies to successfully pursue a career pathway, including postsecondary credit leading to a degree, diploma, certificate, or industry-recognized credential and employment. Students who are career and college ready are able to successfully complete credit-bearing coursework at a two- or four-year college or university or other credit-bearing postsecondary program without need for remediation.

Subd. 2. Expectations. Expectations of schools, districts, and the state for career or college readiness under this subdivision must be comparable in rigor, clarity of purpose, and rates of student completion.

Subd. 3. Adult basic education and English learners. The commissioner and the chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities must collaborate in aligning instruction and assessments for adult basic education students and English learners to provide the students with diagnostic information about any targeted interventions, accommodations, modifications, and supports they need so that assessments and other performance measures are accessible to them and they may seek postsecondary education or employment without need for postsecondary remediation. When administering formative or summative assessments used to measure the academic progress, including the oral academic development, of English learners and inform their instruction, schools must ensure that the assessments are accessible to the students and students have the modifications and supports they need to sufficiently understand the assessments.

Subd. 4. Career exploration. (a) Districts and schools, on an annual basis, must use career exploration elements to help students, beginning no later than grade 9, and their families explore and plan for

postsecondary education or careers based on the students' interests, aptitudes, and aspirations. Districts and schools must use timely regional labor market information and partnerships, among other resources, to help students and their families successfully develop, pursue, review, and revise an individualized plan for postsecondary education or a career. This process must help increase students' engagement in and connection to school, improve students' knowledge and skills, and deepen students' understanding of career pathways as a sequence of academic and career courses that lead to an industry-recognized credential, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree and are available to all students, whatever their interests and career goals.

(b) A student who demonstrates attainment of required state academic standards, which include career and college readiness benchmarks, on high school assessments under subdivision 1a is academically ready for a career or college and is encouraged to participate in courses awarding college credit to high school students. Such courses and programs may include sequential courses of study within broad career areas and technical skill assessments that extend beyond course grades.

(c) In developing, supporting, and improving students' academic readiness for a career or college, schools, districts, and the state must have a continuum of empirically derived, clearly defined benchmarks focused on students' attainment of knowledge and skills so that students, their parents, and teachers know how well students must perform to have a reasonable chance to succeed in a career or college without need for postsecondary remediation. The commissioner, in consultation with local school officials and educators, and Minnesota's public postsecondary institutions must ensure that the foundational knowledge and skills for students' successful performance in postsecondary employment or education and an articulated series of possible targeted interventions are clearly identified and satisfy Minnesota's postsecondary admissions requirements.

(d) For students in grade 8 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, a school, district, or charter school must record on the high school transcript a student's progress toward career and college readiness, and for other students as soon as practicable.

(e) The school board granting students their diplomas may formally decide to include a notation of high achievement on the high school diplomas of those graduating seniors who, according to established school board criteria, demonstrate exemplary academic achievement during high school.

History: 1999 c 241 art 9 s 3; 2000 c 500 s 15; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 4; 2003 c 129 art 1 s 7; 2010 c 382 s 21; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 2 s 4; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 12; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 8; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 6; art 3 s 7; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 65

120B.31 SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY AND STATISTICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Educational accountability and public reporting.** Consistent with the direction to adopt statewide academic standards under section 120B.02, the department, in consultation with education and other system stakeholders, must establish a coordinated and comprehensive system of educational accountability and public reporting that promotes greater academic achievement, preparation for higher academic education, preparation for the world of work, citizenship, and the arts.

Subd. 2. MS 2022 [Repealed, 2024 c 109 art 2 s 32]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 2012 c 239 art 2 s 21]

Subd. 3a. **Rollout sites; report.** (a) The commissioner of education shall designate up to six school districts or charter schools as rollout sites.

(b) The rollout sites should represent urban school districts, suburban school districts, nonurban school districts, and charter schools. The commissioner shall designate rollout sites and notify the schools by August 1, 2017, and the designated school districts or charter schools shall have the right to opt in or out as rollout sites by September 1, 2017.

(c) The commissioner must consult stakeholders and review the American Community Survey to develop recommendations for best practices for disaggregated data. Stakeholders consulted under this paragraph include at least:

- (1) the rollout sites;
- (2) parent groups; and
- (3) community representatives.

(d) The commissioner shall report to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education policy and finance by February 1, 2018. The commissioner may research best practices from other states that have disaggregated data beyond the requirements of the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The commissioner must consult with the stakeholders on how to measure a student's background as an immigrant or a refugee and provide a recommendation in the report on how to include the data in the statewide rollout. The recommendations may address:

(1) the most meaningful use of disaggregated data, including but not limited to which reports should include further disaggregated data;

(2) collection of additional student characteristics, including but not limited to ensuring enhanced enrollment forms:

- (i) provide context and the objective of additional data;
- (ii) are designed to convey respect and acknowledgment of the sensitive nature of the additional data; and
- (iii) are designed to collect data consistent with user feedback;

(3) efficient data-reporting approaches when reporting additional information to the department;

(4) the frequency by which districts and schools must update enrollment forms to meet the needs of the state's changing racial and ethnic demographics; and

(5) the criteria for determining additional data. This recommendation should include a recommendation for frequency of reviews and updates of the additional data and should also identify the approach of updating any additional census data and data on new enrollees. This recommendation must consider additional student groups that may face education disparities and must take into account maintaining student privacy and providing nonidentifiable student level data.

Subd. 4. **Student performance data.** In developing policies and assessment processes to hold schools and districts accountable for high levels of academic standards under section 120B.021, the commissioner shall use the student categories identified under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as most recently reauthorized, and student categories of:

- (1) homelessness;

- (2) ethnicity under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2);
- (3) race under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2);
- (4) home language;
- (5) English learners under section 124D.59;
- (6) free or reduced-price meals; and

(7) other categories designated by federal law to organize and report the data so that state and local policy makers can understand the educational implications of changes in districts' demographic profiles over time as data are available.

Any report the commissioner disseminates containing summary data on student performance must integrate student performance and the demographic factors that strongly correlate with that performance.

Subd. 4a. **Student participation.** (a) The commissioner must create and publish a form for parents and guardians that:

- (1) explains the need for state academic standards;
 - (2) identifies the state assessments that are aligned with state standards;
 - (3) identifies the consequences, if any, the school or student may face if a student does not participate in state or locally required standardized assessments;
 - (4) states that students who receive a college ready benchmark on the high school Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota state college or university in the corresponding subject area;
 - (5) summarizes the provisions in section 120B.306, subdivision 1; and
 - (6) notifies a parent of the right to not have the parent's child participate in the state and locally required academic assessments, and asks a parent that chooses to not have a child participate⁵ in the assessments the basis for the decision.
- (b) A school district must post the form created by the commissioner on the district's website and include it in the district's student handbook.

Subd. 5. **Access to information.** To ensure the effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school and parents, each district shall provide parents and teachers a timely written summary, in an electronic or other format, of their student's current and longitudinal performance and progress on the state's academic content standards as measured by state assessments. Providing parents with a summary prepared by the Department of Education fulfills the requirements of this subdivision.

Subd. 6. MS 2022 [Repealed, 2024 c 109 art 2 s 32]

History: 1996 c 412 art 7 s 2; 1997 c 1 s 2; 1998 c 397 art 4 s 3,4,51; art 11 s 3; 1998 c 398 art 5 s 10,55; 2003 c 130 s 12; 1Sp2005 c 5 art 11 s 1; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 10; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 9-11; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 2 s 7; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 14; 2014 c 272 art 3 s 8; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 7; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 21-24; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 16-18; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 65; art 9 s 19; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 15

120B.35 STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH.

Subdivision 1. **Student indicators of growth and achievement.** The commissioner must develop and implement a system for measuring and reporting academic achievement and individual student growth, consistent with the statewide educational accountability and reporting system. The system components must measure and separately report the federal expectations of schools and the growth of individual students: students' current achievement in schools under subdivision 2; and individual students' educational growth over time under subdivision 3. The system also must include statewide measures of student academic growth that identify schools with high levels of growth, and also schools with low levels of growth that need improvement. The data must include both statewide measures of student achievement and, to the extent annual tests are administered, indicators of achievement growth that take into account a student's prior achievement. Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide or districtwide assessments. Indicators that take into account a student's prior achievement must not be used to disregard a school's low achievement or to exclude a school from a program to improve low achievement levels.

Subd. 2. **Federal Expectations for student academic achievement.** (a) Each school year, a school district must determine if the student achievement levels at each school site meet federal expectations. If student achievement levels at a school site do not meet federal expectations, the district must work with the school site to adopt a plan to raise student achievement levels to meet federal expectations. The commissioner of education shall establish student academic achievement levels to comply with this paragraph.

(b) School sites identified as not meeting federal expectations must develop continuous improvement plans in order to meet federal expectations for student academic achievement. The department, at a district's request, must assist the district and the school sites in developing a plan to improve student achievement. The plan must include parental involvement components.

(c) The commissioner must:

(1) assist school sites and districts identified as not meeting federal expectations; and

(2) provide technical assistance to schools that integrate student achievement measures into the school continuous improvement plan.

(d) The commissioner shall establish and maintain a continuous improvement website designed to make aggregated and disaggregated student growth and, under section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2), student learning and outcome data on every school and district available to parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and the general public, consistent with this section.

Subd. 3. **State growth measures; other state measures.** (a)(1) The state's educational assessment system measuring individual students' educational growth is based 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.

(2) For purposes of paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), the commissioner must analyze and report separate categories of information using the student categories identified under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as most recently reauthorized, and, in addition to "other" for each race and ethnicity, and the Karen community, seven of the most populous Asian and Pacific Islander groups, three of the most populous Native groups, seven of the most populous Hispanic/Latino groups, and five of the most populous Black and African Heritage groups as determined by the total Minnesota population based on the most recent American Community Survey; English learners under section 124D.59; home language; free or reduced-prior

meals; and all students enrolled in a Minnesota public school who are currently or were previously in foster care, except that such disaggregation and cross tabulation is not required if the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

(b) The commissioner, in consultation with a stakeholder group that includes assessment and evaluation directors, district staff, experts in culturally responsive teaching, and researchers, must implement an appropriate growth model that compares the difference in students' achievement scores over time, and includes criteria for identifying schools and school districts that demonstrate academic progress or progress toward English language proficiency. The model may be used to advance educators' professional development and replicate programs that succeed in meeting students' diverse learning needs. Data on individual teachers generated under the model are personnel data under section 13.43. The model must allow users to:

(1) report student growth consistent with this paragraph; and

(2) for all student categories, report and compare aggregated and disaggregated state student growth and, under section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2), student learning and outcome data using the student categories identified under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as most recently reauthorized, and other student categories under paragraph (a), clause (2).

The commissioner must report measures of student growth and, under section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2), student learning and outcome data, consistent with this paragraph, including the English language development, academic progress, and oral academic development of English learners and their native language development if the native language is used as a language of instruction, and include data on all pupils enrolled in a Minnesota public school course or program who are currently or were previously counted as an English learner under section 124D.59.

(c) When reporting student performance under section 120B.36, subdivision 1, the commissioner annually, beginning July 1, 2011, must report two core measures indicating the extent to which current high school graduates are being prepared for postsecondary academic and career opportunities:

(1) a preparation measure indicating the number and percentage of high school graduates in the most recent school year who completed course work important to preparing them for postsecondary academic and career opportunities, consistent with the core academic subjects required for admission to Minnesota's public colleges and universities as determined by the Office of Higher Education under chapter 136A; and

(2) a rigorous coursework measure indicating the number and percentage of high school graduates in the most recent school year who successfully completed one or more college-level advanced placement, international baccalaureate, postsecondary enrollment options including concurrent enrollment, other rigorous courses of study under section 120B.021, subdivision 1a, or industry certification courses or programs.

When reporting the core measures under clauses (1) and (2), the commissioner must also analyze and report separate categories of information using the student categories identified under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as most recently reauthorized, and other student categories under paragraph (a), clause (2).

(d) When reporting student performance under section 120B.36, subdivision 1, the commissioner annually, beginning July 1, 2014, must report summary data on school safety and students' engagement and connection at school, consistent with the student categories identified under paragraph (a), clause (2). The summary data under this paragraph are separate from and must not be used for any purpose related to measuring or evaluating the performance of classroom teachers. The commissioner, in consultation with

qualified experts on student engagement and connection and classroom teachers, must identify highly reliable variables that generate summary data under this paragraph. The summary data may be used at school, district, and state levels only. Any data on individuals received, collected, or created that are used to generate the summary data under this paragraph are nonpublic data under section 13.02, subdivision 9.

(e) For purposes of statewide educational accountability, the commissioner must identify and report measures that demonstrate the success of learning year program providers under sections 123A.05 and 124D.68, among other such providers, in improving students' graduation outcomes. The commissioner, beginning July 1, 2015, must annually report summary data on:

- (1) the four- and six-year graduation rates of students under this paragraph;
- (2) the percent of students under this paragraph whose progress and performance levels are meeting career and college readiness benchmarks under section 120B.307; and
- (3) the success that learning year program providers experience in:
 - (i) identifying at-risk and off-track student populations by grade;
 - (ii) providing successful prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk students;
 - (iii) providing successful recuperative and recovery or reenrollment strategies for off-track students;and
- (iv) improving the graduation outcomes of at-risk and off-track students.

The commissioner may include in the annual report summary data on other education providers serving a majority of students eligible to participate in a learning year program.

(f) The commissioner, in consultation with recognized experts with knowledge and experience in assessing the language proficiency and academic performance of all English learners enrolled in a Minnesota public school course or program who are currently or were previously counted as an English learner under section 124D.59, must identify and report appropriate and effective measures to improve current categories of language difficulty and assessments, and monitor and report data on students' English proficiency levels, program placement, and academic language development, including oral academic language.

(g) When reporting four- and six-year graduation rates, the commissioner or school district must disaggregate the data by student categories according to paragraph (a), clause (2).

(h) A school district must inform parents and guardians that volunteering information on student categories not required by the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is optional and will not violate the privacy of students or their families, parents, or guardians. The notice must state the purpose for collecting the student data.

Subd. 4. Improving schools. Consistent with the requirements of this section, beginning June 20, 2012, the commissioner of education must annually report to the public and the legislature best practices implemented in those schools that are identified as high performing under federal expectations.

Subd. 5. MS 2022 [Repealed, 2023 c 55 art 2 s 66]

History: 1998 c 398 art 9 s 1; 1999 c 241 art 9 s 4; 2000 c 500 s 16; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 5; 2003 c 130 s 12; 2004 c 294 art 5 s 2; 2007 c 147 art 8 s 38; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 12; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 15; 2014 c 272

art 1 s 9; art 3 s 9; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 25; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 19; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 2 s 4; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 19; art 9 s 19,65

120B.36 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY.

Subdivision 1. **School performance reports and public reporting.** (a) The commissioner shall report:

- (1) student academic performance data under section 120B.35, subdivisions 2 and 3;
 - (2) academic progress consistent with federal expectations;
 - (3) school safety and student engagement and connection under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (d);
 - (4) rigorous coursework under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (c);
 - (5) the percentage of students under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), clause (2), whose progress and performance levels are meeting career and college readiness benchmarks under sections 120B.307 and 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (e);
 - (6) longitudinal data on the progress of eligible districts in reducing disparities in students' academic achievement and realizing racial and economic integration under section 124D.861;
 - (7) the acquisition of English, and where practicable, native language academic literacy, including oral academic language, and the academic progress of all English learners enrolled in a Minnesota public school course or program who are currently or were previously counted as English learners under section 124D.59;
 - (8) two separate student-to-teacher ratios that clearly indicate the definition of teacher consistent with sections 122A.06 and 122A.15 for purposes of determining these ratios;
 - (9) staff characteristics excluding salaries;
 - (10) student enrollment demographics;
 - (11) foster care status, including all students enrolled in a Minnesota public school course or program who are currently or were previously in foster care, student homelessness, and district mobility; and
 - (12) extracurricular activities.
- (b) The school performance report for a school site and a school district must include school performance reporting information and calculate proficiency rates as required by the most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- (c) The commissioner shall develop, annually update, and post on the department website school performance reports consistent with paragraph (a) and section 120B.11.
- (d) The commissioner must make available performance reports by the beginning of each school year.
- (e) A school or district may appeal its results in a form and manner determined by the commissioner and consistent with federal law. The commissioner's decision to uphold or deny an appeal is final.
- (f) School performance data are nonpublic data under section 13.02, subdivision 9, until the commissioner publicly releases the data. The commissioner shall annually post school performance reports to the department's public website no later than September 1, except in years when the reports reflect new performance standards. The commissioner shall post the school performance reports no later than October

1 in years with new performance standards for academic standards-based assessments, and no later than November 1 in years with new performance standards adopted under Minnesota Rules, part 3501.1200, for English language proficiency assessments.

Subd. 2. **Student progress and other data.** (a) All data the department receives, collects, or creates under section 120B.11, governing comprehensive achievement and civic readiness, or uses to determine federal expectations under the most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act and determine student growth, learning, and outcomes under section 120B.35 are nonpublic data under section 13.02, subdivision 9, until the commissioner publicly releases the data.

(b) Districts must provide parents sufficiently detailed summary data to permit parents to appeal under the most recently reauthorized federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The commissioner shall annually post federal expectations and state student growth, learning, and outcome data to the department's public website no later than September 1, except that in years when data or federal expectations reflect new performance standards, the commissioner shall post data on federal expectations and state student growth data no later than October 1.

History: 2003 c 129 art 1 s 9; 2004 c 294 art 2 s 5; 2007 c 146 art 2 s 11; 2009 c 96 art 2 s 13; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 2 s 8,9; 2013 c 116 art 2 s 16; 2013 c 144 s 8; 2014 c 272 art 1 s 10; 1Sp2015 c 3 art 2 s 8; 2016 c 189 art 25 s 26; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 20; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 2 s 5; 2023 c 55 art 2 s 20,65; 2024 c 109 art 2 s 16,31

120B.362 [Repealed, 2009 c 96 art 2 s 68]

120B.363 CREDENTIAL FOR EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONALS.

Subdivision 1. **Rulemaking.** The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must adopt rules to implement a statewide credential for education paraprofessionals who assist a licensed teacher in providing student instruction. Any paraprofessional holding this credential or working in a local school district after meeting a state-approved local assessment is considered to be highly qualified under federal law. Under this subdivision, the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, in consultation with the commissioner, must adopt qualitative criteria for approving local assessments that include an evaluation of a paraprofessional's knowledge of reading, writing, and math and the paraprofessional's ability to assist in the instruction of reading, writing, and math. The commissioner must approve or disapprove local assessments using these criteria. The commissioner must make the criteria available to the public.

Subd. 2. **Training possibilities.** In adopting rules under subdivision 1, the board must consider including provisions that provide training in: students' characteristics; teaching and learning environment; academic instruction skills; student behavior; and ethical practices.

Subd. 3. **Initial training.** Within the first 60 days of supervising or working with students, a district must provide each paraprofessional with initial training in emergency procedures, confidentiality, vulnerability, reporting obligations, discipline policies, roles and responsibilities, and a building orientation.

History: 2003 c 129 art 1 s 10; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 3 s 1

120B.365 [Repealed, 2017 c 40 art 1 s 122]

120B.38 [Repealed, 1998 c 398 art 6 s 38]

120B.39 [Repealed, 2009 c 96 art 2 s 68]