

Policy 424 STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Adopted: 4/15/2004

Revised: _____

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a staff development program and structure to carry out planning and reporting on staff development that supports improved student learning.

II. ADVISORY STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND SITE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

A. The School Board will establish an Advisory Staff Development Committee to develop a Staff Development Plan, assist Site Professional Development Teams in developing a site plan consistent with the goals of the Staff Development Plan, and evaluate staff development efforts at the site level.

1. The majority of the membership of the Advisory Staff Development Committee shall consist of teachers representing various grade levels, subject areas, and special education.

III. DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will develop a Staff Development Plan which will be reviewed periodically by the School Board.

B. The Staff Development Plan must contain the following elements:

1. Staff development outcomes which are consistent with the education outcomes as may be determined periodically by the School Board;
2. The means to achieve the Staff Development outcomes;
3. The procedures for evaluating progress at each school site toward meeting educational outcomes;
4. Ongoing staff development activities that contribute toward continuous improvement in achievement of the following goals:
 - a. Improve student achievement of state and local education standards in all areas of the curriculum by using best practices methods;
 - b. Effectively meet the needs of a diverse student population, including at-risk children, children with disabilities, and gifted children, within the regular classroom and other settings;
 - c. Provide an inclusive curriculum for a racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse student population that is consistent with state education diversity rule and the district's education diversity plan;

- d. Improve staff collaboration and develop mentoring and peer coaching programs for teachers new to the school or district;
 - e. Effectively teach and model violence prevention policy and curriculum that address early intervention alternatives, issues of harassment, and teach nonviolent alternatives for conflict resolution; and
 - f. Provide teachers and other members of site-based management teams with appropriate management and financial management skills.
- C. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will assist Site Professional Development Teams in developing a site plan consistent with the goals and outcomes of the Staff Development Plan.
- D. The Advisory Staff Development Committee shall assist the School District in preparing any reports required by the Department of Education relating to staff development including, but not limited to, the reports referenced in Section VII below.

IV. DUTIES OF THE SITE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- A. The Site Professional Development Team must demonstrate to the School Board the extent to which staff at the site have met the outcomes of the Staff Development Plan. The actual reports to the School Board can be made by the Advisory Staff Development Committee to avoid duplication of effort.
- B. If the School Board determines that staff development outcomes are not being met, it may withhold a portion of the initial allocation of revenue referenced in Section V below.

V. STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

- A. The School District may, in its discretion, expend an amount of unreserved revenue for staff development based on its needs.

VI. PROCEDURE FOR USE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

- A. On a yearly basis, the Advisory Staff Development Committee, with the assistance of the Site Professional Development Teams, shall prepare a projected budget setting forth proposals for allocating staff development funds reserved for each school site. Such budgets shall include, but not be limited to, projections as to the cost of building site training programs, costs of individual staff seminars, and cost of substitutes.
- B. Individual requests from staff for leave to attend staff development activities shall be submitted and reviewed according to school district policy, staff procedures, contractual agreement, and the effect on school district operations. Failure to timely submit such requests may be cause for denial of the request.

VII. REPORTING

- A. Prior to September 15 of each year, the School District shall prepare a report of the previous fiscal year's staff development results and expenditures and submit it to the Commissioner of the Department of Education (Commissioner).
 1. The report will include expenditures by the School Board for district-level activities and expenditures made by the staff.
 2. The report will provide a breakdown of expenditures for:
 - a. curriculum development and programs;
 - b. in-service education, workshops, and conferences; and
 - c. the cost of teachers or substitute teachers for staff development purposes.

Within each of the foregoing categories, the School District will indicate on the report whether the expenditures were incurred at the district level or the school site level, and whether the school site expenditures were made possible by the grants to school sites that demonstrate exemplary use of allocated staff development revenue.

- B. The School District will utilize the reporting form and/or system designated by the Commissioner.