TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Charter School

604 INSTRUCTIONAL CURRICULUM

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the development of course offerings for students.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Instruction will be available to students in at least the following subject areas:

1. Language arts and basic communication skills including reading and writing, literature, and fine arts;

2. Mathematics and science;

3. Social studies, including history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship that includes civics (see II.I);

4. Health and physical education;

[Note: Health curriculum may include child sexual abuse prevention in consultation with other federal, state, or local agencies and community-based organizations to identify research-based tools, curricula, and programs.]

5. The arts;

6. Career and technical education; and

7. World languages which will include American Sign Language or supplemental offerings.

B. The basic instructional program shall include all courses required for each grade level by the Minnesota Department of Education and all courses required in all elective subject areas. The instructional approach will be nonsexist and multicultural.

C. Arts Curriculum Specifics:

Grades 9 through 12 Standards.

Analysis and interpretation. The student will understand and apply artistic processes to analyze, interpret, and evaluate art works in at least one of the three

arts areas required to be offered by a school from the following: dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts.

Creation and performance. The student will understand and use artistic processes to create original or perform existing works of art in at least one of the three arts areas required to be offered by a school from the following: dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts. As an elective, the student may understand and use artistic processes to create original or perform existing works of art in another art form or creative writing.

D. The charter school board, at its discretion, may offer additional courses in the instructional program at any grade level.

E. Each instructional program shall be planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the charter school and other relevant factors. Each program plan should contain goals and objectives, materials, minimum student competency levels, and methods for student evaluation.

F. The Charter School Director shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to instructional curriculum.

G. The charter school will provide onetime cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) instruction as part of its grade 9 to 12 curriculum for all students in that grade.

1. In the school's discretion, training and instruction may result in CPR certification.

2. CPR and AED instruction must include CPR and AED training that have been developed:

   a. by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross and incorporate psychomotor skills to support the instruction; or

   b. using nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines for CPR and incorporate psychomotor skills to support the instruction. "Psychomotor skills" means hands-on practice to support cognitive learning; it does not mean cognitive-only instruction and training.

3. The school 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.

4. 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.

H. The charter school shall assist all students 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 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 pre-kindergarten through

grade 12 schools, postsecondary institutions, economic development agencies, and local and regional employers that support students' transitions 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 to ensure that the student's course-taking schedule keeps the student 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 course work.

The charter school 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.

Educators must possess the knowledge and skills to effectively teach all English learners in their classrooms. The charter school must provide appropriate curriculum, targeted materials, professional development opportunities for educators, and sufficient resources to enable English learners to become career and college-ready.

When assisting students in developing a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education and employment, the charter school 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.

If a student with a disability has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or standardized written plan that meets the plan components herein, the IEP satisfies the requirements, and no additional transition plan is needed.

Students who do not meet or exceed the 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 the compulsory attendance law. A student's plan under this provision shall continue while a student is enrolled.

I. A student enrolled in a public school must correctly answer at least 30 of 50 civics test questions. A charter school may record on a student's transcript that the student answered at least 30 of 50 civics test questions correctly.

1. "Civics test questions" means 50 of the 100 questions that, as of January 1, 2015, United States citizenship and immigration services officers use to select the questions they pose to applicants for naturalization so the

applicants can demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and government, as required by federal law. The Learning Law and Democracy Foundation, in consultation with Minnesota civics teachers, must select by July 1 each year 50 of the 100 questions under this paragraph to serve as the state's civics test questions for the proximate school year and immediately transmit the 50 selected civics test questions to MDE and to the Legislative Coordinating Commission, which must post the 50 questions it receives on the Minnesota's Legacy website by August 1 of that year.

2. A school may exempt a student with disabilities from this requirement if the student's IEP team determines the requirement is inappropriate and establishes an alternative requirement.

3. A school may administer the civics test questions in a language other than English to students who qualify for English learner services.

4. Schools may administer civics test questions as part of the social studies curriculum.

5. A school must not prevent a student from graduating or deny a student a high school diploma for failing to correctly answer at least 30 of 50 civics test questions.

6. The school cannot charge a fee related to this requirement.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.021 (Required Academic Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.022 (Elective Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Involuntary Career Tracking Prohibited)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.236 (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic External Defibrillator Instruction)

Cross References: Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
MSBA Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)