

Mounds View Public Schools Ends and Goals Regulation

EG-1104 Student Testing

The primary focus of the District-wide testing program will be on the measurement of student achievement. The results will be used in curriculum and program decision-making as one factor in determining program effectiveness. Results will also be used to communicate with parents.

Achievement is defined as a student's present knowledge or skills in academic subjects such as: reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. In District 621, these will be measured by standardized norm-referenced and criterion-referenced achievement tests.

The most frequently used achievement tests are complete batteries or survey batteries which measure overall achievement in common subjects of instruction. Achievement scores are frequently reported as percentiles, grade equivalents, stanines, and normal curve equivalents.

Of primary importance in the selection of any standardized tests administered to District students will be the technical adequacy of measures. Technical adequacy is determined by a test's reliability, validity, and norm sample.

General Policy EG-3110 "Protection and Privacy of Student Records," and the latest "Minnesota Department of Education Guidelines for the Collection, Maintenance, and release of Pupil Records," will be followed in the testing of students and in the use and release of test data.

The staffs of the schools are to be kept up-to-date on the interpretation of test scores. School staff will help interpret a student's test results to the student and the student's parents. Test interpretation data will be used for making decisions about each child's educational development. In the interpretation of test scores, both the strengths and weaknesses will be pointed out. However, the focus will be on the student's strengths.

The results of the standardized tests for each student will be recorded in the student's cumulative record folder.

Parents and students will be informed through announcements in *School Talk* and/or school newsletters as to which standardized tests will be administered as well as the scheduled testing dates. Aggregate testing results will be made available through these same publications.

The results of norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests for an individual student are available to the parents of the student and to the students themselves upon request for review of the records, in the presence of an appropriate staff member.

The results of all standardized tests will be compiled on a District-wide basis (not individual student results) and reported annually to the School Board. Such information will always include the necessary background, relevant census data, relevant achievement test scores, insofar as the data are available.

The necessary funds for testing, scoring, and reporting will be appropriated annually through the general fund budget in consultation with the Coordinator of Research, Evaluation, and Testing.

Revised: March 2005