



TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Margaret Worth, General Counsel

SUBJECT: Policy Review Information Item

Proposed Board Action:

State Board Policies G17 and G18 for review.

Background Information:

State Board Bylaw B8 requires that all State Board Policies, including Bylaws, Internal Policy Directives and General Education Policies, be reviewed by the Board every four years. Pursuant to the review schedule implemented by the State Board's Policy Committee, State Board Policies G17 and G18 are submitted for review.

If the Commissioner, Board President or any Board member believes that action or referral to the Policy Committee is necessary in connection with these Policies, an appropriate motion may be placed on the Agenda for the November Board meeting.

Pursuant to B8, Policies G17 and G18 will expire on October 6, 2012, unless revised or reaffirmed prior to that date. Policy B6 will remain in effect indefinitely until revised or rescinded.

Estimated Cost:

N/A

Supporting Documentation Included:

Board Policies B8, G17, and G18.

For Additional Information on this item:

Call Margaret Worth (402) 471-0310 or email Margaret.Worth@nebraska.gov

Policy, Bylaw, and Position Statement Development

The State Board may change its existing policies, bylaws or position statements or adopt new policies, bylaws, or position statements at any time, on its own motion or upon recommendation by the Commissioner.

All State Board policies, bylaws and position statements shall be included on the State board's webpage.

All State Board policies, bylaws and position statement are to be reviewed by the Board every four years and the Commissioner will recommend a subsequent review date when each new policy is proposed.

The State Board's general education policies or position statements (designated by the letter "G") shall expire four years after their adoption unless revised or reaffirmed by the State Board prior to expiration. Starting on October 6, 2010, general education policies or position statements that are more than four years old shall expire on October 6, 2012, unless revised or reaffirmed prior to that date.

The State Board's procedural bylaws (designated by the letter "B") and the State Board's internal policy directives (designated by the letter "D") shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by the State board.

The General Counsel will review all Board policies, bylaws and position statements annually for compliance with state law.

All State Board resolutions, except those honoring an individual, shall contain an expiration date.

Board Action History

- 12/10/76
Prior BD-1 (Statement of Board authority and foremost consideration.)
Prior BDA-2 (Systematic procedures for policy adoption.)
Prior BDE-2 (Annual policy review.)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9311 BOP
(Replace 1976 policies with statement that Board can change or adopt policies at any time.)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B8
(Added 5-vote requirement and 3-year minimum review.)
- 6/7/02 – Prior B8
(5-vote requirement deleted.)
- 9/7/06 – B8
(Added references to bylaws and position statements, changed 3 to 2 year reviews, added annual General Counsel law review.)
- 10/6/10 – B8
(Changed 2 to 4 year reviews and clarified expiration dates of policies, bylaws and position statements approved by the State Board.)

Cross-References

- 79-301(2) – The State Board's duty to form policy.
- 79-315 – The State Board's power to organize itself.

Nebraska State Board of Education Policy on Funding for Proposed New Requirements for Schools to Provide an Essential Education for All Students

The Board believes that every student should receive an essential education and that every public school should do all it can to provide that education. However, financial support will be necessary to carry out new requirements. It is, therefore, the intent of the Board to provide needed time for districts to plan for the implementation of essential education policy recommendations that will require additional financial resources. Within that lead-in time, the Board will direct the Commissioner to:

1. Conduct feasibility studies to determine the financial impact of the new requirements, and
2. Seek funding to support implementation of essential education.

Based on the results of the feasibility studies and funding, the Board will review recommendations in the essential education policy to determine what needs to be done to continue to achieve equitable opportunities for an essential education.

Board Action History

- Policy statement adopted 5/6/05.

Cross-References

- 92 NAC 10
- G7 Essential Curriculum
- G13 Essential Education
- G16 Rules Supporting Essential Education

Nebraska State Board of Education Policy on American Sign Language

American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual/spatial language with its own specific organization, structure, and grammar. ASL is used as the primary mode of communication for many people who are Deaf or hard of hearing and is part of a rich and distinctive Deaf culture that has its own history, arts, and customs. Therefore, the Nebraska State Board of Education supports the recognition of ASL as a national language.

There are many benefits to offering American Sign Language to our students. Students develop both expressive and receptive competency, allowing them to better communicate with others who use ASL. Increased exposures to ASL encourages integration of the deaf and hearing communities and stimulates interest in careers involving deafness, specifically sign language interpreting and deaf education.

The Department of Education will take steps to ensure that local school districts understand the ASL is recognized as a national language in Nebraska. Therefore, students taking ASL courses may receive world language credit. Students may be able to fulfill language requirements for admission to post secondary institutions through ASL courses subject to and in accordance with the requirements of those institutions.

The Department will take steps to create an appropriate endorsement in ASL to prepare teachers to provide instruction in that language. The Department also encourages collaboration with post secondary institutions to develop or enhance programs to offer the necessary coursework.

Board Action History

- Policy statement adopted 6/7/06.

Cross-References

- 92 NAC 10
- 92 NAC 24