

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUZEKA-STEUBEN
STUDENT ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Assignment of Responsibilities

The School Board directs the administration, under the ultimate supervision and management of the District Administrator, to (1) identify and recommend for Board approval, (2) monitor and review, and (3) make any recommendations to the Board for the adoption of changes to student academic standards in:

1. Each content/subject area where applicable law mandates the adoption of local academic standards; and
2. Such other content/subject areas as may be directed by the Board or as the administration otherwise deems advisable.

In making such recommendations and in monitoring and reviewing the appropriateness of the District's current student academic standards, the administration shall evaluate and consider at least the District's current student performance data, current District goals, the statutory educational goals for school districts, the state's general school district standards, and any model student academic standards that may be adopted or published by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

State law expressly requires all school districts to adopt student academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing (i.e., English/language arts), and geography and history (i.e., social studies). With respect to these specific subjects:

1. The District Administrator and Board President shall ensure, as also required by state law, that the identification of the academic standards in these subjects that will be in effect in the District for the upcoming school year is a topic on the agenda and meeting notice of the first Board meeting of each school year (i.e., in July).
2. In addition, the District Administrator shall ensure that a notice that provides electronic links to or that otherwise identifies the student academic standards in these subjects that will be in effect in the District for the upcoming school year is posted on the District's website prior to the beginning of each fall school term.

The District's adopted academic standards in additional content/subject areas may be, but are not required to be, identified in the above-referenced website notice. For example, the notice may identify the District's standards for financial literacy, which is another content area in which school districts are required to adopt academic standards.

The Purposes of Student Academic Standards

The District's student academic standards identify, at a general level, what students should know and be able to do within a given content area or subject. Standards are often, but not always, identified for a particular grade/developmental level or for a particular grade range. Standards serve as goals and

guideposts for both classroom instruction and student learning. The standards also help students and parents and guardians gain a better understanding of the District's expectations for student learning.

Academic standards provide a critical foundation and framework for the District's sequential curriculum plans and for the District's student assessments in each content area. However, the standards are not an actual, complete classroom curriculum. The curriculum that the District's schools implement in the various content areas remains flexible and adaptable, and there are normally many different instructional techniques and activities that could all be consistent with the applicable academic standards. Similarly, while the District implements various state and federal testing mandates and various locally-selected student assessments, academic standards normally do not mandate the use of any specific standardized test or any other specific assessment of students' knowledge, skills, or progress.

Stated another way, academic standards attempt to identify the most essential and fundamental aspects of student learning, but they do not attempt to describe all that can or should be taught or precisely how instruction should be delivered. In addition, the adoption of general academic standards in no way prevents adjustments in programs, curriculum, or individual learning goals or activities for students who have exceptional educational needs and interests, such as students with disabilities, English learners, and gifted students.

Legal References: Wisconsin Statutes Sections 118.01, 118.30(1g)(a)1, 120.12(13), Section 121.02, 121.02(1)(L)7; Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter PI 8

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