

INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT

May 9, 2011

Policy: 4.2 Creative Students

Policy Category: Ends

Period Monitored: July 1, 2010 – May 9, 2011

This is my monitoring report on the Board of Education's Ends policy "Creative Students." The report is being submitted outside the Board of Education's monitoring schedule with approval of the Board. I certify that the information is true and complete. This report will monitor the policy starting at its more detailed provisions and end with the global provision.

Michael F. Paskewicz
Superintendent

Date: May 9, 2011

Policy Language 4.2.1

Northview's curriculum and all activities provide opportunities for all students to improve their creative thinking process and provides them with opportunities to put into practice the lessons learned.

Interpretation:

I interpret "*Northview's curriculum and all activities*" to mean:

1. The K-12 curriculum utilized by Northview Public Schools is aligned with the Michigan Grade Level, High School Content Expectations, and adopted National Core Standards.
2. The 8-12 curricula utilized by Northview Public Schools are aligned in core areas with the EXPLORE/PLAN/ACT tested standards.

This interpretation is reasonable as the Michigan Grade Level and High School Content Expectations are based upon accepted national and international standards. The EXPLORE/PLAN/ACT tested standards are recognized by colleges/universities as predictors of success at the post-secondary level as well as the major criteria for acceptance to college/university enrollment. Further, clubs and activities address the higher order thinking skills as defined by Mazlow.

Data Reported:

1. All K-12 curriculum is aligned with the Michigan Grade Level and High School Content Expectations (or Standards, where applicable). K-12 curriculum is reviewed on a scheduled basis yearly. That is, a minimum of one curricular area per year is reviewed by a committee of staff and parents for relevancy, rigor, and alignment to state, national, and international standards.
2. The 8-12 curriculum is aligned with the EXPLORE/PLAN/ACT tested standards in core areas.

Conclusion Statement:

The organization met expectations.

Interpretation:

I interpret "*provides opportunities for all students to improve their creative thinking process and provides them with opportunities to put into practice the lessons learned*" to mean:

1. Co-curricular clubs, sports, and activities are available to students in grades K – 12.

2. 70% of students in grades 5 – 12 participate in activities before or after the school day.

This interpretation is reasonable because co-curricular activities allow students to extend their learning beyond the school day and encourage higher level thinking skills related to application, analysis, and synthesis. Further, University of Oklahoma professor, Michael Mumford cites the following techniques that boost the creative process - Get moving, Follow a Passion, Take a Break, Reduce Screen Time – all of which are typical and encouraged in co-curricular activities.

Data Reported:

1. 183 clubs, sports, and activities are available to students in grades K-12.
2. 72% of high school students participate in co-curricular activities; 85% of students in grades 5 – 8 participate; all elementary schools have after school clubs and activities as well as community sponsored athletic teams (K – 4 has 17 clubs/activities; 5-6 has 27; 6-8 has 29; 9 – 12 has 110)

Conclusion Statement:

The organization met expectations.

Policy Language 4.2.2

Tools to foster creativity are identified, provided, and taught to students.

Interpretation:

I interpret this to mean:

1. 70% of high school students are enrolled in art, music, PE, or tech classes. All of these classes promote higher order thinking skills.
2. 100% of K-8 students have art, music, and PE on a weekly basis.

Data Reported:

1. 100% of high school students are or have been enrolled in art, music, PE, or tech classes and have completed at least one credit. Over 70% of the high school students take more than the 1 credit in the areas listed.
2. 100% of K-8 students have art, music, and PE on a weekly basis.

Conclusion Statement:

The organization met expectations.

Policy Language 4.2.3

Students are given experiential opportunities to creatively demonstrate the use of these tools.

Interpretation:

I interpret this to mean:

1. A minimum of 80% of high school students' performance on the Northview High School Employability Skills Rubric are rated "consistently" or "usually" meeting.
2. 95% of graduates earn an endorsed diploma based on criteria established by the Northview Board of Education and the State of Michigan within a four year period of time. At all times, the graduation rate of Northview students will exceed the State of Michigan graduation rate.
3. 95% of 8th grade students have participated in the Career Cruising course.
4. 95% of 11th grade students have participated in the Junior Gateways course.
5. 95% of 8th grade students have participated in at least one job shadow experience.
6. 95% of graduating seniors have participated in at least one job shadow experience.
7. Students in grades 3 – 8 have the opportunity to participate in Odyssey of the Mind Competition.

Employability Skills Rubric is aligned with the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and the guidelines from the Workforce Development Council guidelines for desired characteristics of graduates as they enter the world of work. Further, creative problem solving is viewed as an important 21st Century Skill by the Chamber of Commerce and the Workforce Development Council. Northview Public Schools requires 29 credits for graduation while the State Endorsed Diploma requires 18 credits that are viewed as one of the most rigorous set of credits in the Nation.

This interpretation is reasonable as multiple opportunities for exploration of careers are available throughout the middle and high school years for a student. Courses are in line with career development standards contained in ACT Work Keys and State of Michigan Career Education expectations. Through job shadow experiences students are able to assess whether or not their problem solving skills transfer to real life applications.

Data Reported:

1. 85.7% of Northview High School students were rated at Consistently/Usually meeting the Employability Skills identified in the rubric.
2. 98.5% graduated with endorsed diploma.
3. 100% of 8th grade students participated in Career Cruising.
4. 100% of 11th grade students participated in Junior Gateways.
5. 100% of 8th grade students had at least one job shadow experience.
6. 100% of 12th grade students had at least one job shadow experience. 90% had two or more job shadow experiences.
7. North Oakview and Highlands 5th/6th have Odyssey of the Mind Teams.

Conclusion Statement:

The organization met expectations except for:

Two elementary schools and Crossroads 7th/8th do not have OM teams. Compliance expected by April 2013.

Policy Language 4.2

Creativity and innovation are hallmarks of the American Society. To compete nationally and internationally, our students must be provided with opportunities to exhibit creative behavior and produce "outside the box" solutions to problems.

Interpretation:

I submit that the policy language has been comprehensively interpreted and measured in the preceding sections.

Data Reported:

Data presented in early sections.

Conclusion Statement:

The organization met expectations.

APPROVED: May 9, 2011