

Missoula County Public Schools

Instruction 2170

Significant Writing Program

Pursuant to Montana accreditation requirements, the Board hereby adopts a definition of a significant writing program. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to determine whether to establish a significant writing program. In determining whether to establish a significant writing program, the Superintendent shall consider the following factors: the number of staff employed, the time available within the class schedule; and the financial status of the District.

If the Superintendent chooses to establish a significant writing program, the Superintendent shall seek approval of the significant writing program from the Board in accordance with Board Policy.

If a significant writing program is established, courses designated as part of the independent significant writing program shall satisfy the following criteria:

- Alignment with the appropriate content standards for communication arts and college and career readiness standards for writing;
- Explicit writing instruction as a part of the course content as a significant, recurring activity;
- Use of writing as a tool by students for learning and understanding course content;
- Development of information literacy as a result of students finding, evaluating, and using information effectively;
- Formulation and expression of opinions and ideas by students in writing;
- Writing exercises are completed in forms and for purposes and audiences typical of disciplines and professions in ways that are clearly separate from foundational skills courses;
- Constructive responses are provided to students regarding their writing, with feedback explicitly directed at improving the quality of their writing;
- Revision of formal documents occurs as part of the process of writing; and
- A significant portion (at least 50%) of the course grade depends on the quality

Cross References:

Board Policy 2120

Curriculum Development and Assessment

Legal Reference:

ARM 10.53.403

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

ARM 10.55.701(2)(p)

Board of Trustees

ARM 10.55.1101

Communicate Arts Program Delivery Standards

Policy History:

Accepted by PN&P Committee on: April 30, 2014 and posted for public comment.

Adopted on: June 10, 2014