

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for the development, assessment and improvement of the educational program of its schools. To this end, the Board is committed to establishing and maintaining a coordinated curriculum management process that:

- Defines how the district's curriculum is developed and approved.
- Ensures that the curriculum is taught and tested.
- Provides for the ongoing review and evaluation of the curriculum.

For purposes of this policy, "curriculum" means a series of planned instruction that is coordinated, articulated and implemented to result in achievement of specific knowledge and skills, and application of such knowledge and skills by all students.

Curriculum Development

The Board views a centralized curriculum articulated among and between grade levels as essential to an effective instructional program designed to meet the learning standards established by the state and the Board.

The Superintendent of Schools, in coordination with the Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, shall be responsible for the development of a written curriculum designed to meet identified student needs. He/she shall establish procedures for curriculum development that provides for the effective participation of administrators, teaching staff, students, parents, other community members and members of the Board.

The curriculum shall:

- Comply with state mandates regarding course offerings and essential knowledge and skills.
- Focus on the content standards of each discipline and ensure that what students learn is rigorous, challenging and represents the most important learning for students.
- Provide sufficient flexibility to meet individual student needs at each stage of development.
- Reflect current research, best practices and technological advancements within each discipline.
- Promote congruence among the written, taught and assessed content.

In presenting curriculum for approval, the administration shall provide the Board with criteria for measuring the educational impact and an estimate of the costs of implementation.

Curriculum Adoption

The Superintendent shall present the written curriculum to the Board for its review and adoption annually. Prior to adoption, the Board will review the curriculum to ensure consistency with Board-adopted learning objectives. In addition, the Board will adopt instructional materials that support the adopted curriculum.

Curriculum Implementation

Implementation of the curriculum rests primarily with the teaching staff. In carrying out this responsibility, the teaching staff shall work to ensure continuity between the written, taught and tested curriculum. The Building Principal shall be responsible for the management of the implementation of the aligned curriculum at the building level. He/she shall carry out this management function through activities including analyzing student assessment data; making classroom observations of teachers; and providing opportunities for teachers to discuss and share ideas and strategies. The district's curriculum for each subject or course shall be communicated to the teaching staff in a written curriculum guide developed annually by the Superintendent. Such guides will provide the necessary information to direct instruction and ensure continuity among and between grade levels. The guides shall also include a description of the essential knowledge and skills for the course, instructional philosophy, appropriate sequence, and correlation of major resources. Curriculum guides shall be made available to parents and community members upon request to promote understanding of district goals and objectives.

Curriculum Review

The Board recognizes the need for and the value of a systematic, ongoing program of curriculum evaluation that includes collecting and analyzing data about student achievement. All aspects of the curriculum shall be subjected to a searching and critical analysis in an attempt to improve students' learning and growth. Such a program is essential to evaluate program effectiveness in each content area and to make judgements about resource allocation. The Superintendent shall develop guidelines to evaluate the instructional program to ensure its continued effectiveness, including its cost-effectiveness. With prior Board approval, the Superintendent may conduct pilot programs deemed necessary to the continuing improvement of the instructional program.

The Superintendent shall report his/her findings regarding the effectiveness of the instructional program to the Board periodically, and, if necessary, shall recommend changes to the district's curriculum.

Ref: Education Law §§1709(3); 1711(5)

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