

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

The Board of Education shall provide a comprehensive instructional program to serve the educational needs of the District's students. The Board of Education accepts responsibility for establishing what students should learn. Therefore, the Board of Education shall review and adopt a District curriculum, which to the extent possible, reflects the desires of the community, the needs of society, and the requirements of state and federal law.

The major objective of curriculum development is to improve the District's educational offerings and its instructional activities and practices in order to increase student engagement in the learning process and improve student achievement. The Board of Education will provide the resources to develop and implement the curriculum within the financial capabilities of the District. The District's curriculum and instructional programs shall be in line with the state's educational standards, goals, and expectations; other applicable legal requirements; and the local goals and standards established by the Board of Education and/or the administration.

The Board of Education delegates responsibility for the development, evaluation and improvement of the curriculum to the District's professional staff, under the leadership and direction of the District Administrator, Director of Instruction and Learning, and building principals.

Curriculum and instructional program development should be a participatory process within the District.

1. Communication and coordination among grade level and subject area teachers should be emphasized on a 4K-12 basis whenever curriculum is developed or evaluated.
2. The Board of Education's belief is that all instructional personnel have a professional obligation to participate in and contribute to the curriculum development and evaluation processes.
3. Curriculum development and evaluation should be guided and supported by appropriate internal and external research.
4. The Board of Education expects that the District's professional educators will seek and utilize resources and expertise from outside the District as they strive to develop and improve the effectiveness of the District's curriculum.

The Director of Instruction and Learning shall develop and implement a District curriculum plan to structure the curriculum development, evaluation, and improvement process.

As part of the District-level plan, the District shall develop and maintain sequential curriculum guides, in electronic format, in all subject areas and will be available on the district website.

1. These guides shall provide the instructional framework for each broad area of study, and for specific courses.

2. Each guide shall specify the sequential learning objectives for the subject area and the course content; identify the instructional resources that are available for each course/grade; identify appropriate means of student assessment; and include a program evaluation method.
3. The guides shall be aligned with applicable standards and goals. Explicit connections should be made between the standards and goals that are being addressed by particular curricular objectives and content.
4. The guides shall also be aligned with the District's locally-established learning goals and objectives. Explicit connections should be made between the local goals and objectives that are being addressed by the specific learning objectives and content of a given course of study.
5. The curriculum guides shall address and facilitate instructional differentiation within the applicable course of study.
6. Objectives and activities related to the use of technology and computer literacy shall be integrated into the curriculum guides for all grade levels.

The Board of Education shall make decisions to add or remove District programs and areas of study. However, subject to the limitations and expectations defined in this policy, the administration shall have authority to approve and implement revisions to the various curriculum guides created for various subject areas. Within the programs and among the various courses and areas of study that have been approved by the Board of Education, the District Administrator, Director of Instruction and Learning, and building principals may also decide, without obtaining Board of Education approval, whether a particular course, class, or curricular activity will be offered in a given term.

Instructional personnel are responsible for providing student instruction that is consistent with applicable academic and instructional standards, the approved curriculum, any mandatory instructional elements or assessments that are included in the relevant curriculum guide(s), and such other directives or expectations as may be established by the employee's supervising administrator(s). In most cases, these general boundaries are expected to leave instructional staff with reasonable professional latitude to creatively define particular instructional activities, approaches to instruction, assignments, and means of assessment that will further the objective of improving student engagement and student learning, and that will also further the District's locally-established learning goals and objectives for students.

The Director of Instruction and Learning shall establish, continuously monitor, and revise as necessary (e.g., due to newly issued standards or due to targeting a specific area for improvement) a schedule for conducting periodic program evaluations in each area of study that is covered by the District's sequential curriculum guides. After reviewing the results of such periodic evaluations, the Director of Instruction and Learning shall provide the Board of Education with any reports and recommendations for possible Board of Education action that they deem necessary or prudent.

Legal Ref: 118.01, 118.015, 118.019; 118.30(1g)(a)1; 120.12 (14); 120.13; 121.02; 121.02(1)(k);
121.02(1)(L); WSS: PI 8; PI 8.01(2)(k) WAC

Cross Ref: 331 New Courses; 331 Rule New Course Procedures and Timeline; 332 Research
Projects and Pilot Programs; 511 Rule Employment Discrimination and Harassment
Complaint Procedures

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