

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION

The Board of Education is committed to working with the Superintendent of Schools, district staff, parents, and staff to develop a quality educational program designed to inspire, educate, and graduate all students.

The adoption of the district's curriculum is one of the Board of Education's most important responsibilities. What courses of study are offered is a matter of educational policy within the discretion of the district's school board. The board recognizes this responsibility, and works cooperatively with administration and staff to develop, assess, and improve the educational program of our 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 assessed.
- 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 Teaching & Learning and Assistant Superintendents for Elementary & Secondary Education, shall be responsible for designing and implementing instructional programs and curriculum that will forward the educational goals of the district.

To facilitate achievement of the articulated learning standards for all students, the district's administration and staff will be guided by the following:

1. All students will be subject to high academic standards and high academic performance expectations.
2. The district will implement measurable effective instructional strategies for closing the achievement gap among all students and will review progress toward this on an annual basis.
3. The district will align its core academic subject curricula with the state learning standards and offer appropriate and equitable support services to enable all students to succeed.
4. The same core academic subject curricula will be used in all schools district-wide.

5. Professional development will be designed to enable achievement of the Board's articulated learning objectives and instructional goals.
6. The district will implement a process of on-going review to identify and address any obstacles to the achievement of all students and disaggregated subgroups.
7. The district will utilize culturally responsive instructional practices, curriculum, and assessments.
8. The district will offer multiple pathways to success toward college and career readiness.

Curriculum Adoption

All course curriculums will be reviewed by the Superintendent, or his/her designee, who will make recommendations for board action. All on-line, hybrid, and blended courses will conform to the same criteria set forth for traditional courses.

Criteria by which the Superintendent, or his/her designee, may judge the acceptability of new course curriculums include, but shall not be limited to, the following questions:

- Does it have direct relevance to the vision, mission, core values and/or addresses identified needs and goals of the district?
- How does the course curriculum influence student support and/or enrichment?
- How is equity and access impacted/enhanced?
- Have the objectives of the course been clearly specified?
- Does it fit into the articulated content area sequence?
- Has it been studied?
- Has a curriculum scope/sequence been completed?
- Has the curriculum been mapped?
- Has the associated textbook(s) or other resources been adopted by the board?
- Have the costs of implementation been reviewed?
- Is there a clear and reasonable plan for periodic evaluation built into the proposal?

Updates to the written curriculum, and changes in the use of standardized assessments will be reported to the board on an annual basis.

With prior board approval, the Superintendent may recommend new programs deemed necessary to the continuing improvement of the instructional program. Any elimination of a course of study (eg., foreign language offerings) must be approved by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to develop regulations to provide for the implementation and systematic evaluation of the district's curriculum. The Superintendent shall make periodic reports and recommendations to the board.

Cross ref: 0050, Statements Of Vision, Mission, and Core Values

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