

## **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION**

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 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 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, shall be responsible for designing and implementing instructional programs and curriculum that will forward the educational goals of the district.

The curriculum shall:

- Meet or exceed 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 and challenging.
- Provide sufficient flexibility to meet individual student needs at each stage of development.
- Reflect current research, best practices and technological advances within each discipline.
- Promote congruence among the written, taught and assessed content.

### **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, educational philosophy and goals of the district?
- 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.

<b>Adopted:</b>	<b>January 20, 2010</b>
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