

INSTRUCTION

Curriculum Research, Planning, and Adoption

Curriculum Committees

The School Board shall be responsible for the adoption of the District's curriculum. The Superintendent may establish Curriculum Committees in various areas to assist the District's curriculum planning process. The Committees shall be directed to provide the Superintendent with recommendations and supportive summaries regarding revisions to the District's educational programs. The Committees shall serve in an advisory capacity only.

The purpose of the Curriculum Committees shall be to:

1. Provide for communication on matters relating to curriculum between individual teachers, across grade levels, within subject-matter areas, and among administrative staff.
2. Provide for system-wide coordination and articulation of curriculum.
3. Identify curriculum-related concerns and establish priorities for their study.
4. Conduct studies and research in the areas of curriculum, utilizing the resources available to the school system.
5. Engage in long-range planning to ensure ongoing improvement of the curriculum in the District. The Superintendent shall identify the Committees' tasks and time guidelines at the time the Committees are established.

Experimental Educational Programs and Pilot Projects

The Superintendent may recommend experimental educational programs and/or pilot projects for Board consideration. Proposals must include goals, material needs, anticipated expenses, and an evaluation process. The Superintendent shall submit to the Board periodic progress reports for programs that exceed one year in duration and a final evaluation with recommendation upon the program's completion.

Limited/Exclusive Classes and Activities

The Superintendent may recommend a program of non-vocational exclusive enrollment classes and/or activities to provide diverse educational opportunities and/or meet students' identified educational needs. Participation in the classes or activities must be voluntary, both genders must be treated with substantial equality, and the program must otherwise comply with State and federal law and with Board policy. The Superintendent must periodically evaluate any exclusive enrollment classes or activities to ensure that: (1) they does not rely on overly broad generalizations about the different talents, capabilities, or preferences of either gender, and (2) they continues to comply with State and federal law and with Board policy.

Research and Planning

Responsibility for curriculum development is shared by all members of the professional staff. However, recognizing that specialized training and experience, as well as sufficient time, are required to keep abreast of relevant changes and promising developments, the Superintendent and staff shall be responsible for the following:

1. Identifying and evaluating trends in curriculum, and sharing this knowledge with the professional staff.
2. Monitoring the operation of the instructional program and working with the staff in problem areas.
3. Providing leadership and/or counseling in District curriculum studies.
4. Providing a varied program of staff in-service activities related to curriculum.
5. Maintaining collection of curriculum reference materials.

Development

The Superintendent shall develop a curriculum review program to monitor the current curriculum and promptly suggest changes to make the curriculum more effective, to take advantage of improved teaching methods and materials, and to be responsive to social change, technological developments, student needs, and expectations.

The Superintendent shall report to the Board, as appropriate, the curriculum review program's efforts to:

1. Regularly evaluate the curriculum and instructional program.
2. Ensure the curriculum continues to meet the stated adoption criteria.
3. Include input from a cross-section of teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and students, representing all schools, grade levels, disciplines, and specialized and alternative programs.
4. Coordinate with the process for evaluating the instructional program and materials.

Adoption

The Superintendent shall recommend a comprehensive curriculum that is aligned with:

1. The District's educational philosophy and goals.
2. Student needs as identified by research, demographics, and student achievement and other data.
3. The knowledge, skills, and abilities required for students to become life-long learners.
4. The minimum requirements of State and federal law and regulations for curriculum and graduation requirements.
5. The curriculum of non-District schools that feed into or from a District school, provided that the necessary cooperation and information is available.
6. The Illinois State Learning Standards and any District learning standards, and
7. Any required State or federal student testing.

The School Board will adopt, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, a curriculum that meets the above criteria.

Curriculum Guides and Course Outlines

The Superintendent shall develop and provide subject area curriculum guides to appropriate staff members.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1681, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.8 and 5/10-19.