

ARTICLE II: GENERAL CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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POLICY 6-2.1 GENERAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Because education is a lifelong process, the educational program in the Poquoson City Public Schools shall provide both formal studies to meet the general academic needs of all students, and opportunities for individual students to develop specific talents and interests in vocational and other specialized fields to grow toward independent learning. The various instructional programs shall be developed with the view toward maintaining balanced, integrated, and sequentially articulated curricula which shall serve the educational needs of all school-aged children in the school division.

The Poquoson City School Board subscribes to the philosophy that well-developed reading and other basic skills, including the ability to spell, speak, and write intelligently, are essential in society. It shall adopt specific requirements to ensure that high school graduates are sufficiently competent in these essential skills.

At all levels, the instructional program shall provide for a wide range of individual differences in student abilities and learning rates through uses of a variety of materials, adjustments in programs, and courses adapted to special needs of students. The curriculum shall meet or exceed those requirements established by the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Education, and the Virginia Board of Education. The curriculum will be aligned to the Standards of Learning.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-199 through 22.1-253:13.6; Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, 8 VAC 20-131-10, et seq.

Adopted: November 2002

Revised: July 2005

POLICY 6-2.2 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

Developing an effective curriculum rests upon adequately describing the educational results desired. The Poquoson City School Board believes that curriculum is a means for reaching the desired result, which is pupil learning. Curriculum development shall be a goal-based process, including: (1) identification of division goals, (2) identification of program goals and student learning results, (3) curriculum evaluation, and (4) curriculum improvement. The purposes of the process are to:

1. respond to the school division needs assessment;
2. establish definitive student learning results in each curriculum area;
3. evaluate the curriculum and its implementation;
4. close the gap between what is taught and what should be taught;
5. provide for continuous curriculum improvement;
6. provide for curriculum coordination within, between and across grade levels;
7. determine how well individual students accomplish program goals and achieve expected learning results;
8. provide a process for staff and community input in developing and implementing curriculum; and
9. provide an orderly and systematic process which will reduce fragmentation in scope and sequence, unnecessary duplication, and irresponsible use of resources and materials.

The School Board expects the administration and faculty to evaluate the educational program as provided under the approved system for a goal-based curriculum and regularly to report findings and recommendations to the School Board. These recommendations shall concern modifications of desired learning results, school division or program goals, new courses or course content, resources, materials, and learning experiences.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-199 through 22.1-253:13.6; Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, 8 VAC 20-131-10, et seq.

Adopted: November 2002

POLICY 6-2.3 CURRICULUM ADOPTION

The curriculum for the Poquoson City Public Schools includes all social and educational experiences that occur as a part of the school program. Elements that interact to modify the designed curriculum within the Poquoson City Public Schools include developments in technology, social relationships, community interests and needs, and the individual characteristics of teachers and students.

The curriculum is designed to assist students in achieving their potential. Values and purposes are developed as the school staff promotes students' individual physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral development through daily interaction.

The curriculum shall meet the requirements of the Code of Virginia and regulations of the Virginia Board of Education. Proposed curriculum and program changes shall be submitted, in writing, to the assistant superintendent of instruction for review with recommendations to the division superintendent.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-199 through 22.1-253:13.6; Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, 8 VAC 20-131-10, et seq.

Adopted: November 2002

POLICY 6-2.4 CURRICULUM GUIDES AND COURSE OUTLINES

The Poquoson City Public Schools instructional staff, under the direction of the division superintendent, shall develop curriculum guides and courses of study outlines and shall provide for continuing review and revision of these documents. The division superintendent shall annually budget funds to support these ongoing projects, and is authorized to create advisory committees to carry out this policy.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-199 through 22.1-253:13.6; Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, 8 VAC 20-131-10, et seq.

Adopted: November 2002

POLICY 6-2.5 NEW COURSE OFFERINGS – SECONDARY

The Poquoson City School Board shall approve all courses that are new to the curriculum. The division superintendent shall adopt regulations consistent with all applicable law regarding the process to be used for recommending new course offerings in the Poquoson City Public Schools.

See Superintendent’s Regulation 6-2.5.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-199 through 22.1-253:13.6; Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, 8 VAC 20-131-10, et seq.

Adopted: November 2002

POLICY 6-2.6 INNOVATIVE OR EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS

Experimental and innovative programs that are not consistent with accreditation standards or other regulations promulgated by the Virginia Board of Education shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval prior to implementation.

The parent or guardian of a child enrolled or engaged in any research or experimental program or project which is funded by the United States Department of Education shall be entitled to inspect all instructional materials which will be used in conjunction with such program or project.

See Superintendent’s Regulation 6-2.6.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-16.1, 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 32.1-162.16, et seq; Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Accreditation Standards for the Public Schools in Virginia, 8 VAC 20-131-10, et seq; and Regulations for the Protection of Students as Participants in Human Research, 8 VAC 20-565-10, et seq; 20 U.S.C., Section 1232h.

Adopted: November 2002