

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

A. The purpose of curriculum development is to meet district or Board goals by:

1. Coordinating all facets of curriculum development.
 - a. Recommend new courses of study.
 - b. Recommend modifications to existing courses.
 - c. Recommend new and revised curricular suggestions.

B. Curriculum development must pass through the following groups. Initiation of new course curriculum proposals may be at any level; however, all groups must have the opportunity for input.

1. Local School Departments

Teachers in the district have the responsibility to work through their departments in planning courses and curricula to meet state and district requirements and adapting these to the needs and abilities of students.

The success of a course depends upon the care with which it has been planned--the statement of goals or concepts, the behavioral objectives, the content of learning experiences, the instructional materials, and the evaluation. A cost estimate of the equipment, supplies, and projected facilities needs to be developed and presented with the course outline.

2. District Department Chair Committees

Course and curriculum authors shall present their curriculum proposals to the local group (department chairpersons) for their consideration. The purpose of this is to receive the thinking, comments, reactions, understanding, and backing of the departments and the principal.

The District must rely on the experience, knowledge of subject area, and professional judgment of the department chairpersons as to the value of courses, curricula, and recommendations presented to them.

Department chairpersons must complete a needs assessment which will include--but not necessarily be limited to--the following:

- a. Is the curriculum adapted to meet the needs of all students?
- b. Is the content consistent with the best and latest studies in the area?

- c. Is the course of value, worthwhile in itself, and of appropriate rigor for the students whose needs it is intended to meet?
- d. Is the course compatible with the philosophy, goals, and objectives of the subject area department, as well as District goals and objectives?
- e. Is the course content covered in courses which are currently adopted?

Only those courses or curriculum recommendations approved by the District department chairperson group will be considered by the District Curriculum Committee for action.

3. District Curriculum Committee

The District Curriculum Committee membership is as follows:

- a. All DO Learning Instructional Technology Coaches and Instructional Specialists
- b. Certificated teacher representative from each school.
- c. A representative assistant principal.
- d. Representative of adult education.
- e. District office administrator with education/instruction responsibilities.
- f. Librarians' representative.
- g. Counselors' representative
- h. Coordinator of English Language Development.
- i. Principals' representative.

The District Curriculum Committee will evaluate and recommend new or revised courses and new or revised curricular programs according to the following criteria:

- a. Is there excessive overlapping with courses or programs in other departments?
- b. Are there conflicting proposals?
- c. Is the course or curricular program as presented carefully planned and well thought out? (Content & objectives)
- d. Does the course or curricular program follow the general and specific objectives of the instructional program of the district?
- e. Does the course or curricular program address Board goals and district philosophy of education?

4. Superintendent's Cabinet

The Superintendent's Cabinet will review new and revised course and curricular program proposals, rationale, and recommendations from the District Curriculum Committee.

5. Board of Trustees

Recommendations are taken to the Board by the Superintendent.

The Board must approve each course, the department in which credit is granted, department frameworks, and graduation requirements before they can become a part of the adopted Oxnard Union Curricular Program.