

2023-24 Boone County Schools Curriculum: Stakeholder Review and Comments

Below is a summary of the public comments collected regarding the 2023-24 curriculum, teaching materials, and resources per SB 1, between April 13 and May 13, 2023. Stakeholder comment summaries are in black font followed by a district response in blue. There were 25 responses.

1. There were several questions about what defines “curriculum,” who develops it, and the expectations for curriculum implementation.

Boone County Schools defines curriculum as the Kentucky Learning Standards bundled into units across grade levels. Teacher Ambassadors & the Teaching and Learning team have developed and revised common K-12 curriculum pacing guides for core content areas (reading, math, science, & social studies). This provides consistency in teaching academic standards and vocabulary. Funds have been set aside to purchase resources to teach Kentucky academic standards and provide professional learning for effective instructional practices.

We have established district wide curriculum documents for our schools to adhere to. These documents are reviewed yearly with the Teaching and Learning team and instructional coaches. It is the expectation of the district that all schools follow these frameworks and pacing guides. These documents can be found on the district website under “District Curriculum.” The curriculum is taught using the teaching materials and resources reviewed during the stakeholder review and public comment.

2. A few responses raised concerns regarding the following programs:
 - a. IXL – Components of the program were listed as “flawed.”

Teaching and Learning team will meet with the IXL representative for our yearly review and we will share these concerns with the representative and ask them to troubleshoot the issues reported.

- b. Edgenuity – “The kids are not learning to take notes from lecture or text; instead, they are learning to fill in the blank from the program.”

Edgenuity was used in other content areas in the middle schools during NTI and hybrid scheduling. However in the middle schools, Edgenuity is no longer being used in core areas as a primary source of curriculum. It is used for our ACCEL virtual school, and this concern has been shared with the ACCEL leadership.

- c. Lexia - “I want to see what Lexia is. What does it do? What subject does it teach? How much does it cost the board for each student to use?”

Lexia is a computerized reading program that provides phonics instruction and gives students independent practice in basic reading skills. It is designed to supplement regular classroom instruction and support skill development in the five areas of reading instruction identified by the National Reading Panel. To see what Lexia is and does you can visit their website at <https://www.lexialearning.com/>. Lexia costs approximately \$10,500 per school.

d. Dreambox – “Dreambox is not a good program.”

Digital programs such as Dreambox and Lexia are supplemental instructional tools used during technology centers during groups in ELA and Math. Teachers use reports from these programs to assist in identifying trends in their classroom, successes to celebrate, and areas of concern that need support. Teachers are our best resource, and these tools support them in providing differentiated instruction.

3. “I am concerned about the grading at Conner Middle.”

Conner Middle School utilizes Evidence Based Grading to allow the students to show mastery in the standards they are being taught. The Evidence Based Grading model is research based and proven to be an effective model to evaluate student’s progress. The district always welcomes parents to reach out to the school administration team to discuss concerns and learn about the grading practices that are being used.

4. “My daughter is in the 7th grade, and she has not read Holes or The Giver. My CHS 12th grader and college freshman read both of those books. So I know it is not that far back. Second, my daughter is a freshman in college, and she has never had to write a paper longer than 4 pages.”

Teachers work from a submitted list of books and chose reading selections that will provide engaging instruction, meet the needs of their students, and thoroughly cover the standards in the course. These selections can change from year to year based on teacher discretion. Based on the Kentucky Standards for Composition, elements of essay writing are thoroughly addressed. Teachers can work within these standards to determine length of essay while meeting the full intent of the standard.

5. Some comments referred to very specific implementation concerns that should be directed to the school administration.

6. Several responses encouraged the district to continue to “represent diverse voices” in the curriculum and appreciated the “commitment to diversity and inclusion.”