CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility in supporting the development, assessment and improvement of the educational program of its schools. To this end, the Board is committed to 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 central office faculty charged with oversight of curriculum, instruction and assessment (i.e. Directors of Curriculum) shall be responsible for the development of a written curriculum designed to meet identified student needs. He/she shall establish procedures for curriculum development that provide for the effective participation of administrators and teaching staff. Citizen groups, students and outside agencies may be invited to participate where appropriate.

The curriculum shall:

- Comply with 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, challenging and represents the most important learning for students.
- Provide sufficient flexibility to meet individual student needs at each stage of development.
- Reflect current research, best practices and technological advancements within each discipline.
- Promote congruence among the written, taught and assessed content.

After planning by the faculty and approval by the administration, new courses will be presented to the Board for their approval.
When the administration considers that an experimental course should become a regular part of the curriculum, such a recommendation will be presented to the Board for adoption.

Periodic reports on the impact of the curriculum on student learning will be presented to the Board by the Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee.

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