

Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is “curriculum”?

A: Curriculum is documentation of what is taught in a given course or subject. Curriculum refers to a system of instruction and learning with specific goals, content, strategies, measurement, and resources. The desired outcome of a curriculum is learning, knowledge, and skills transfer for the student.

Q: Who decides what is in a curriculum?

A: The State of New Jersey Department of Education creates [New Jersey Student Learning Standards](#) (SLS) for every subject area in grades Pre-K through 12. These standards are written by New Jersey Teacher teams and employees from the New Jersey Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education. Every public school district is required to teach the NJSLS and design their curricula around these mandatory standards.

Q: Who writes and approves the Pascack valley Regional High School District curriculum?

A: Each subject area is part of the district’s Five Year Curriculum Cycle. Every five years, every subject has an evaluation year where the curriculum is reviewed to ensure compliance and adherence to NJSLS and research-based effective teaching practices. The evaluation is led by that department’s supervisor and a committee of teachers from that department. The process is overseen by the Director of Curriculum as well as the District Curriculum Committee and the Board of Education curriculum committee. After the curriculum evaluation and revision is completed, upon the recommendation of the administration and the superintendent, the Board of Education reviews and approves the curriculum prior to classroom implementation.

Q: What are the components of the curriculum?

A: The State of New Jersey Department of Education has mandatory components that must be included in the curriculum. They include the NJSLS, goals and objectives, how student learning will be assessed, a scope and sequence of the content, recommended resources and technology tools, and strategies for instruction for special populations such as ELL students, students with learning disabilities, and gifted students.

Q: Who should I contact if I have a question about a particular curriculum?

A: Start with the Supervisor of instruction for that subject area. They are experts in their field and are able to answer questions about the Student Learning Standards as well as their department’s curriculum and instructional practices.