# Curriculum Update

October 2025

# Curriculum Updates

Summer Work

New Staff Orientation

2025-26 Curriculum Review Areas

2025-2026 Professional Development

Quick Updates

# Summer Work

## Teacher Curriculum Work:

- MS Civics Resource Database development
- Computer Science Curriculum Development
- Environmental Health & Society & Research Curriculum Development
- Collaborative Interdisciplinary Curriculum Development grade 5

## District Supported Professional Learning:

- Book Study: The Project Habit
- CollegeBoard summer institute for AP Psychology
- Scaffolding Language Development for MLs Course
- Blueprint for ML Success Course

# Summer Shoutouts!

Chris Dwyer, Digital Learning Specialist - Represented MERSD on an AI-Focused Speaker Panel with Essex County Learning Collaborative

Jess Clemons, Essex Special Educator, participated in DESE's intensive PD Institute: "Literacy Launch"

Literacy Launch Institutes

Caitlin Featherstone, Essex Reading Specialist - Represented MERSD as invited panel speaker for DESE's ESSA family engagement webinar.

# Orientation

New Staff

- Teachers
- TAs
- Student Teachers/Fellows
- And our mentors!

Build Connections
District Strategic Plan
Safety
SEL
Technology
Mentor/Mentee & Induction Program

# Curriculum Review

**Curriculum Review Timeline**

*As of 7.2025*

While this map identifies likely timelines for Curriculum Review, some stages of the process may take less than a year, while other stages may take multiple years.

| | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | 2027-2028 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Curriculum & Program Review Analyze & Identify** | Comprehensive Health/PE/SEL<br>Mathematics<br>English (6-12)<br>English as a Second Language | Comprehensive Health/PE/SEL<br>Mathematics<br>Digital Literacy/Computer Science | Digital Literacy/Computer Science<br>Literacy (preK-5) |
| **Implement Program Review Recommendations, Field Testing** | History/Social Sciences<br>Arts<br>Science, Technology, Engineering | English (6-12)<br>Arts<br>Science, Technology, Engineering<br>English as a Second Language | Comprehensive Health/PE/SEL<br>Mathematics<br>English (6-12) |
| **Implementation** | World Language<br>ELA & Lit (K-5) | World Language<br>History/Social Sciences | History/Social Sciences<br>Arts<br>Science, Technology, Engineering<br>English as a Second Language |

Summary reports from HSS and STE Curriculum Review coming later this fall/ early winter

# 2025-26 Professional Development

Our professional development this year centers on preparing students to become the critical thinkers and innovative problem-solvers outlined in our Vision of the Graduate while fostering the authentic PreK-12 learning environment described in our Strategic Plan. We will focus on two interconnected areas that support our commitment to keeping students at the center of decision-making and practice.

- **Content-Driven Focus:** Teachers will engage in content-driven collaborative work, training, and curriculum mapping that ensures our academic programs provide authentic learning experiences.

- **Responsible AI Integration:** As we prepare students to be effective communicators who demonstrate responsible digital communication, our professional development will emphasize the ethical and purposeful use of artificial intelligence tools, both for educators and for students.

# Quick Updates

- DESE-sponsored Early Literacy Tutoring Grant *(Partnership with Ignite Reading)*
- New: Partnership with RAISE/MIT: Day of AI
- New: Cross District Networks: Partnership with Rockport, Hamilton/Wenham, Georgetown
- Multilingual Learner Curriculum & Program Review
- Implementation (yr.1) K-2 History/SS Curriculum *(Private i History Detectives)*
- Vertical Expansion of MTSS (MS/HS)
- Continuing: Wellness Advisory Committee
- Continuing: MERSD Arts Council