File: IGE

Curriculum / Instruction / Assessment Review Cycle

The Webster School Committee recognizes the need to maintain a performance-driven, standards-based curriculum, as well as current practices in the area of instruction strategies and assessment of student's learning. To this end, the Webster School Committee established the following policy:

Phase I: Summer Curriculum Development: Each summer, selected members of the professional staff will conduct an annual K-12 review of each of the four core academic subjects; English, mathematics, science and technology and history and social studies. Prior to the close of the school year and the summer review, elementary grade level coordinators and secondary department heads will collect feedback from teachers regarding curriculum benchmarks, activities and assessments. This information, along with assessment data will be brought into the three curriculum review committees (K-4), (5-8) and (9-12). Summer reviews will include the following four process:

A. Curriculum Review

- Student performance data, including MCAS data; formative assessments; nationally normed summative assessments; and locally developed tests and quizzes.
- Teacher feedback on the effectiveness of specific lessons and classroom activities employed during the school year.
- Critical review of educational materials for simplistic or demeaning generalizations, lacking intellectual merit on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, age, homelessness, or disability.

B. Curriculum Research

- Advances in the areas of curriculum and instruction, as well as findings from recent field studies and research relevant to the subject and grades under review.
- Revisions and edits to the MA Curriculum Standards that have occurred over the previous school year.
- Changes in applicable regulations or laws as they apply to curriculum, instruction, and or student assessment.

C. Curriculum Revision

- Synthesize information from both the review and research process, listing curriculum changes by categories; standard, objective, activity and/or assessment.
- Integrate revisions into the existing curriculum while deleting obsolete information and entries.
- Identify training needs and other resources required for fall implementation of the revised curriculum.

D. Curriculum Plan

- Develop a comprehensive instructional plan for the upcoming school year, including curriculum standards, objective, and benchmarks for each grade.
- Determine the assessments needed to scientifically verify the efficacy of the newly revised curriculum materials including texts, student workbooks and activity materials and assessments.

Phase II: Administrative Review / School Committee Approval: by mid-August, the curriculum committee should have completed its work and submitted the curriculum plan to the superintendent of schools or his/her designee. The Admin Team will then hold a single agenda item during which the revised curriculum will be reviewed and necessary changes made. Every effort will be made to follow the spirit and substance or recommendations made by the summer curriculum review team. Once completed, the revised and reviewed curriculum will be forwarded to the Webster School Committee for approval.

Specialty Subjects: For art, music, physical education / health, guidance, business, library / media and world languages, informal reviews and updates will be conducted during the school year. Complete reviews of specialty subjects will be conducted once every five years on a rotating basis, and following the outline above.

First Reading: September 27, 2016
Second Reading: October 11, 2016
Third and Final Reading: October 25, 2016