Merchantville Board of Education 130 South Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109	File Code : 6141 Adopted : 09/27/1988 Revised : 04/25/2017 Reviewed : 07/15/2024

Curriculum Design/Development

The chief school administrator shall be responsible to the board for the development of curriculum to meet identified pupil needs. The board shall ensure that curriculum and instruction are content-rich and aligned to the most recent revision of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). In addition, the board shall ensure that appropriate instructional adaptations are designed and delivered for English language learners, gifted and talented students and students with disabilities. The curriculum shall guide instruction to ensure that every student masters the NJSLS. Instruction shall be designed to engage all students and modified based on student performance. The curriculum shall include:

A. Interdisciplinary connections throughout;

B. Integration of 21st century skills;

C. A pacing guide;

D. A list of instructional materials, including various levels of text at each grade;

E. Benchmark assessments; and

F. Modifications for special education students, for English language learners and for gifted students.

Professional development plans shall support the implementation of the curriculum. Professional development opportunities shall be offered that further the improvement of teachers' understanding of the content and pedagogy related to their teaching assignment. Professional development shall also promote individual and collaborative professional learning with adequate and consistent time for teachers to work together in and across content areas and grade levels to review student work, analyze classroom assessments and other achievement data, critique lesson plans, and solve instructional problems.

The chief school administrator shall establish procedures for curriculum development that ensure the effective participation of teaching staff members; pupils, as appropriate to their age and grade; parents/guardians; the community; members of the board; and the use of all available resources. Care shall be taken that certified staff shall not be assigned to teach material outside the limits of their certification and endorsements.

The chief school administrator shall report to the board the objectives, evaluative criteria and costs of each proposed program before seeking board adoption. New programs and courses of study shall not be acted upon by the board until the meeting following their presentation, in order for board members to have an opportunity to review the proposed program.

Criteria by which the board will judge the acceptability of new course offerings include:

A. Does it address an identified pupil need?

B. Is it relevant to the board's philosophy and goals and does it offer real possibilities for progress toward these goals?

C. Does it satisfy the requirements of the board's school and classroom practices prohibiting bias and stereotyping?

D. If the proposed course replaces an existing program, what defect in the previous program is it designed to overcome?

E. Does it include measures for determining progress?

F. Does it address the necessary study skills?

G. Has it been thoroughly studied and/or tested by district staff or by another district? What were the results?

H. Has a curriculum guide been completed? If not, when can it be expected?

I. Have the accompanying textbooks, electronic textbooks and other materials been recommended to the board?

J. Have the costs and time of implementation been reviewed, including inservice training?

A five-year plan for updating curriculum shall be developed and implemented. The chief school administrator shall report annually on all progress in curriculum development and the implementation of the five-curriculum plan at the time of the board's annual adoption of curriculum.

New/revised curriculum, together with a written executive summary, should be distributed to the board, or a designated committee of the board, at least two weeks prior to the oral presentation of the curriculum to the board. No more that two curriculums may be presented at any one board meeting.

Key Words

Curriculum, Curriculum Design/Development

Legal References

- N.J.S.A. 18A 34-1: Textbooks; selection; furnished free with supplies; appropriations
- N.J.A.C. 6A 8-3.1 Curriculum and instruction
- N.J.A.C. 6A 30-1.1 Purpose and scope
- N.J.A.C. 6A 32-12.1 Student attendance
- Old Bridge Education Association v. Old Bridge Township Bd. of Ed
- Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey State Department of Education

Cross References

- 2131 - Sample Policy: Chief School Administrator
- 5120 - Sample Policy: Assessment of Individual Needs
- 6140 - Sample Policy: Curriculum Adoption
- 6142 - Sample Policy: Subject Fields
- 6143 - Sample Policy: Curriculum Guides
- 6147 - Sample Policy: Standards of Proficiency
- 6171 - Sample Policy: Special Instructional Programs

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