

CURRICULUM POLICY

The Board of Education of Regional School District No. 7 schools is committed to a comprehensive process of curriculum planning and assessment that fosters continuous improvement of student performance measured by the highest local, regional, state, national, and international standards of excellence. Curriculum includes the scope and sequence of content, concepts, and skills taught in a particular discipline (or combination of disciplines, for interdisciplinary curricula); textbooks and other core materials; identified measurable student learning objectives; and the methods of assessing student performance of learning objectives.

The curriculum must take into account the individual differences among students and provide encouragement and challenge to students of all abilities. The staff must maintain for each student a high standard for his/her performance. The Board of Education is responsible for establishing the educational goals for the Regional School District No. 7 schools; for determining the assessments by which progress toward these goals will be measured; and, for improving all curricula and textbooks. In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-220, this is a collaborative process, involving input from teachers, administrators, parents, community members, and students, as appropriate.

The Board of Education works with the administration in an ongoing cycle of review, revision, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum. The Board directs the Superintendent to develop and implement regulations that describe a process for educators to review, revise, develop, implement, and evaluate curriculum and report to the Board on the status of each curriculum in a five-year cycle.

A sound curriculum review and design process promotes effective teaching and learning. The following basic principles shall guide curriculum review and revisions:

- Curriculum design, development, implementation, assessment, and revision shall be a planned, ongoing, and systematic process.
- All curricula shall undergo regular review.
- Curricula shall be content rich and shall provide students' development of basic skills, critical thinking, and creativity.
- Curricula shall address the diverse needs of students.
- State and national standards, sound research findings, best educational practices, and post-secondary expectations of students should form the basis of curriculum development, evaluation, and revision.
- Teachers and administrators shall participate in curriculum development, evaluation and revision.

Assessment of the curriculum is of vital importance. The administration is responsible for ensuring that all curricula are evaluated based upon recognized assessment practices. Assessments of curriculum areas should be presented to the Board on a regular basis.

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CURRICULUM POLICY (Continued...)

Whenever possible, the staff of Regional School District No. 7 should participate in efforts to align curriculum along with K-12 continuum. The Board recognizes that it has no formal authority over curriculum decisions for grades PK-6. However, it supports all efforts to articulate a well-defined scope and sequence of learning for students in all grades.

The Middle School is an integral part of Regional School District No. 7; and, as such, the Board reaffirms that the Middle School Curriculum must be subject to the same rigorous review, development, implementation, and assessment as that of the High School.

The professional staff has the responsibility for implementing the Board's curriculum policy. Effective instruction is critically important to the success of the curriculum. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent and of the Principal to ensure that the Board's philosophy, goals, and curriculum policy are implemented in the classroom.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-16b Prescribed courses of study.
 10-16c et seq. re Family life education
 10-17 English language to be medium of instruction.
 10-17 et seq. re Bilingual instruction.
 10-18 Courses in United States History, government and duties and responsibilities of citizenship.
 10-18a Contents of textbooks and other general instructional materials.
 10-18b set seq. re Firearms safety programs.
 10-19 Effect of alcohol, nicotine or tobacco and drugs to be taught. Training of personnel. Evaluation of programs by alcohol and drug abuse commission and department of education.
 10-19a et seq. re Substance abuse prevention team.
 10-24 Course in motor vehicle operation and highway safety.
 10-21 et seq. re Vocational education and cooperation with business.
 10-220 Duties of the board of education as amended by PA 08-153.
 10-221a High School graduation requirements.