



Title: **Academic Standards**

Code: 102

Book: Policy Manual

Section: 100 Programs

Purpose

The Board recognizes that education is a vital function of the state and community. The community, through the strategic planning process, shall be encouraged to participate in the development of the educational goals established for this school district. [\[1\]\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Definition

Academic standards - shall be defined as what a student should know and be able to do at a specified grade level; they shall describe the knowledge and skills students will be expected to demonstrate in order to graduate. [\[4\]\[5\]](#)

Authority

The Board shall establish academic standards for district students to attain in accordance with those adopted by the State Board of Education in the following content areas: [\[6\]\[2\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

1. Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.
2. Mathematics.
3. Science and Technology.

4. Environment and Ecology.
5. Social Studies - to include history, geography, civics and government, and economics.
6. Arts and Humanities.
7. Career Education and Work.
8. Health, Safety and Physical Education.
9. Family and Consumer Science.
10. World Languages.

The Board may develop, expand or improve existing academic standards in the following content areas to be attained by students as a requirement for graduation: [\[6\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - Study of the natural world and facts, principles, theories and laws in the areas of biology, chemistry, physics and earth sciences. Technology is the application of science to enable societal development including food and fiber production, manufacturing, building, transportation and communication. Science and technology share the use of the senses, science processes, inquiry, investigation, analysis and problem-solving strategies.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY - Understanding the components of ecological systems and their interrelationships with social systems and technologies. These components incorporate the disciplines of resource management, agricultural diversity, government and the impact of human actions on natural systems. This interaction leads to the study of watersheds, threatened and endangered species, pest management and the development of laws and regulations.

SOCIAL STUDIES – To include:

1. History - Study of the record of human experience including important events; interactions of culture, race and ideas; the nature of prejudice; change and continuity in political systems; effects of technology; importance of global-international perspectives; and the integration of geography, economics and civics studies on major developments in the history of the Commonwealth, the United States and the world.
2. Geography - Study of relationships among people, places and environments, of geographic tools and methods, characteristics of place, concept of region and physical processes.
3. Civics and Government - Study of United States constitutional democracy, its values and principles, study of the Constitution of the Commonwealth and government including the study of principles, operations and documents of government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, how governments work and international relations.
4. Economics - Study of how individuals and societies choose to use resources to produce, distribute and consume goods and services. Knowledge of how economies work, economic reasoning and basic economic concepts, economic decision making, economic systems, the Commonwealth and the United States economy and international trade.
5. Arts and Humanities - Study of dance, theatre, music, visual arts, language and literature including forms of expression, historical and cultural context, critical and aesthetic judgment and production, performance or exhibition of work.
6. Career Education and Work - Understanding career options in relationship to individual interests, aptitudes and skills

including the relationship between changes in society, technology, government and economy and their effect on individuals and careers. Development of knowledge and skill in job-seeking and job-retaining skills and, for students completing vocational-technical programs, the skills to succeed in the occupation for which they are prepared.

7. Health, Safety and Physical Education - Study of concepts and skills which affect personal, family and community health and safety, nutrition, physical fitness, movement concepts and strategies, safety in physical activity settings, and leadership and cooperation in physical activities.
8. Family and Consumer Science - Understanding the role of consumers as a foundation for managing available resources to provide for personal and family needs and to provide basic knowledge of child health and child care skills.
9. World Languages - Ability to communicate in a language other than English, including the ability to understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics and to develop knowledge and understanding of other cultures.

Adopted: **October 21, 1981**

Last Revised: **July 23, 2002**

Legal References:

- [1. 22 PA Code 4.4](#)
 - [2. 22 PA Code 4.13](#)
 - 3. Pol. 100
 - [4. 22 PA Code 4.3](#)
 - [5. 22 PA Code 4.11](#)
 - [6. 22 PA Code 4.12](#)
 - 7. Pol. 217
 - [8. 22 PA Code 4.24](#)
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