



Cache County School District

Policy Series 4000: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Policy No. 4800

Middle School Academic Requirements

Purpose and Philosophy

The Cache County School District Board of Education supports strong and clear academic standards in all grades, subjects, programs, and schools throughout the district. The Board recognizes that middle school is a critical academic and developmental bridge between elementary and high school, and affirms the district's commitment to preparing students for increased academic rigor and lifelong learning.

Commitment to Aligned Curriculum

The Board supports the development and implementation of curriculum requirements that are aligned with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Core Standards and General Core requirements, as outlined in R277-700. Middle school curriculum and instruction will be designed to ensure that students are well prepared for the expectations of high school and beyond.

Academic Foundations

Middle school students will be expected to master grade-level standards in all core content areas, including language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, physical and health education, digital literacy, and college and career awareness. Instruction will be focused on the development of critical thinking, self-management, and academic behaviors that promote long-term student success.

Student Placement and Support

Student academic performance will be the primary consideration in course placement decisions. Middle schools will provide support courses during the regular school day for students who require additional instruction to master core concepts. Additionally, each middle school will incorporate a designated intervention/enrichment period into the daily schedule to provide targeted support for students who need it and enrichment opportunities for those ready to extend their learning.

Parents who choose to override school-based placement decisions will be required to sign a form acknowledging that they are declining the placement deemed most appropriate for the student's academic success.

Retention and Progression

In accordance with research-based best practices and Utah Board Rule R277-700, the Board discourages the retention of students in middle school. Instead, the district will implement proactive academic supports and timely interventions to help students progress with their peers and meet grade-level expectations.

Implementation and Oversight

The Board directs the superintendent to develop administrative procedures to ensure effective implementation of this policy, consistent with state requirements and the district's educational goals.

Legal References:

Utah Administrative Code R277-700

Approved by Board of Education: May 15, 2025