

2200 CURRICULUM

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1, the Board of Education shall ensure curriculum and instruction are designed and delivered in such a way that all students are able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills specified by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). The Board also shall ensure that appropriate instructional adaptations are designed and delivered for students with disabilities, for multilingual learners (ML), for students enrolled in alternative education programs, and for students identified as gifted and talented.

The words and terms used in this Policy shall have the meanings as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.3.

The Board shall encourage the active involvement of representatives from the community, including representatives from the local workforce and higher education, in the development of educational programs aligned with the NJSLS. The Board shall make all approved curriculum pacing guides and citations for core instructional materials publicly available pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1(a)3.

The Board shall be responsible for the progress of all students in developing the knowledge and skills specified by the NJSLS, including all content areas not currently included in the Statewide assessment program.

The Board shall be responsible for the delivery of educational programs at all grade levels in the district using a coherent sequence of activities to prepare all students for college, careers, and civic life upon their graduation. Examples of such programs include, but are not limited to, academic programs; career and technical education programs; two-way bilingual immersion; heritage language education; and/or magnet programs. The Board shall implement educational programs that prepare all students for success in college, careers, and civic life, including, if applicable, the Kindergarten through grade eight development of academic skills integral to success in high school courses. When applicable, the Board shall provide students with access to advanced coursework. The Board shall develop, implement, and regularly evaluate strategies that identify, support, and encourage all student groups to enroll in and succeed in advanced coursework.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.2, the Board shall provide all students enrolled in the district with the opportunity to attain the goals of an NJSLS-based curriculum in an educational environment that is designed to meet their needs. The Board shall create curriculum, customize instructional adaptations, allocate resources to provide equitable access to courses, programs, and experiences, and

build student-centered learning environments that meet the NJSLs. The Board shall provide all students with disabilities an educational program aligned with the NJSLs, as well as the required individualized accommodations, instructional adaptations, and/or modifications as specified in a student's IEP or 504 plan. The Board shall be responsible for identifying students as gifted and talented and shall provide them with appropriate instructional adaptations and services as defined at N.J.S.A. 18A:35-35. The Board shall provide language instruction educational programs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.3, the Board shall actively assist and support professional learning for teachers, educational services staff, and school leaders, including the district's plan and additional professional learning requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3.

The Board shall provide to teachers, educational services staff, and school leaders professional learning on the following, when applicable:

1. The use of student and school performance data to provide insights into the strengths and areas for growth to improve the quality of instruction that students receive;
2. Evidence-based literacy instruction in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-142. through 18A:6-150.;
3. The content knowledge, instructional strategies, and collaborative skills needed to meet the needs of students with disabilities required at N.J.A.C. 6A:14;
4. The needs and educational development of students identified as gifted and talented; and
5. All additional statutory and regulatory requirements.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2, the Board shall be responsible for the review and continuous improvement of curriculum and instruction based upon changes in knowledge, technology, assessment results, and modifications to the NJSLs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.4(a). The Board shall design curriculum that is comprehensive and meets the developmental needs of students at each grade level through complete alignment with the NJSLs. The curriculum shall be designed to prepare students for success in higher education, careers, and civic life by addressing essential academic subjects, fostering critical thinking, promoting social and emotional growth, and providing opportunities for creativity and contextual learning. The Board shall include interdisciplinary connections throughout the curriculum at every grade level in the district.

The Board shall annually approve a list of all programs and courses that comprise the district's curriculum and shall approve any subsequent changes in the curriculum in accordance with Policy 2220. The Superintendent or designee shall develop a procedure to address and eliminate any possible bias in the curriculum as programs, courses of study, and instructional materials that comprise the district's curriculum shall be designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of any of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a) and promote understanding and mutual respect between children.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.4(d), the Board shall provide educators with the time and resources to develop, review, and enhance contextual learning, supportive curricula, and instructional tools for helping students develop required knowledge and skills. The tools shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Curriculum designed and implemented to meet grade or grade-level expectations and graduation requirements;
2. List of core instructional and supplemental materials, including grade level-appropriate texts and decodable texts for emergent readers;
3. Integrated accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities; MLs; students identified as gifted and talented; students not at grade-level proficiency; and students with 504 plans;
4. Assessments, including, formative; summative; benchmark; and alternative assessments;
5. Universal literacy screeners and related instructional materials, as appropriate and as defined at, and required pursuant to, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-142. through 18A:6-150.;
6. Pacing guides; and
7. Opportunities for interdisciplinary connections and contextual learning.

The Superintendent shall establish an in-district team to develop a corrective action plan if the district is found to be in noncompliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3. The in-district team shall consist, at a minimum, of district administrators, curriculum supervisor(s), and educators certified in one or more of the identified areas of noncompliance.

The corrective action plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The curricular, policy, or programmatic changes to be implemented, including, but not limited to, changes to curriculum frameworks and other required course revisions;
2. The individual(s) responsible for addressing each change identified at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.5(e)1. and 1. above;
3. Specific timelines for the completion of each change identified at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.5(e)1. and 1. above; and
4. Alignment with, and incorporation of or references to, the relevant provisions of all applicable State and Federal plans.

Within sixty days of the district's receipt of the Commissioner's written notification pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.5(c), the Superintendent shall present the corrective action plan to the Board for approval.

1. The Board shall review and approve the corrective action plan.
2. The Superintendent shall submit to the Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, the corrective action plan approved by the Board.

The Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, shall review the corrective action plan and notify the Superintendent if the plan is acceptable. The Superintendent shall implement the corrective action plan within thirty days of the Commissioner's written notification pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.5(g). The Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, shall review and verify the district's implementation of the corrective action plan.

When a corrective action plan is not submitted, it is determined by the Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, to be unacceptable, or it is not implemented, the Commissioner shall notify the Superintendent of the action(s) that the Commissioner intends to take pursuant to State law, rules, and regulations.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-142. through 18A:6-150.;
18A:35-35.

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1; 6A:8-3.2; 6A:8-3.3; 6A:8-3.4; 6A:8-3.5

Approved:

2260 EQUITY IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(a), the Board of Education shall provide all students with equitable and bias-free access to all school facilities, courses, programs, activities, and services, regardless of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a), by:

1. Ensuring barrier-free access to all school and classroom facilities;
2. Attaining, within each school, minority representation, that approximates the district's overall minority representation. Exact apportionment is not required; the ultimate goal is a reasonable plan achieving the greatest degree of a representative balance that is feasible and consistent with sound educational values and procedures;
3. Utilizing, on an annual basis, a State-approved English language proficiency assessment that evaluates a student's English language proficiency on the four domains of listening, speaking, writing, and reading for determining the eligibility and placement of students who may be identified as multilingual learners, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.3(a)3.;
4. Utilizing bias-free multiple measures for determining the special needs of students with disabilities, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4;
5. Ensuring support services, including intervention and referral services and school health services, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16, are available to all students; and
6. Ensuring a student is not discriminated against because of a medical condition. A student shall not be excluded from any education program or activity because of a long-term medical condition unless a physician certifies such exclusion is necessary.
 - a. If excluded, the student shall be provided with equivalent and timely instruction that may include home instruction, without prejudice or penalty.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(b), the Board shall ensure the district's curriculum and instruction are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs). The Board also shall ensure its curriculum and instruction address the elimination of discrimination by narrowing the achievement and opportunity gaps, by providing equity in educational activities and programs, and by providing opportunities for students to interact positively with others regardless of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a), by:

1. Ensuring there are no differential requirements for completion of course offerings or programs of study solely on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a);
2. Ensuring courses shall not be offered separately on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a):
 - a. Portions of classes that deal exclusively with human sexuality may be conducted in separate developmentally appropriate sessions based on gender identity, provided the course content for such separately conducted sessions is the same;
3. Increasing and promoting equitable representation of all students in all classes and programs;
4. Ensuring schools demonstrate the inclusion of a multicultural curriculum in its instructional content, materials and methods, and ensuring students understand the basic tenet of multiculturalism;
5. Ensuring the Amistad Commission Curriculum is infused into the curriculum and is taught;
6. Ensuring the Commission on Holocaust Education curriculum is included in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary schools, as developmentally appropriate, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28.; and
7. Ensuring all curricular requirements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8 and the NJSLS are taught, including any curriculum developed concerning any of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a) or curriculum developed by any commissions constituted for the development of curriculum concerning any of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(c), the Board shall ensure all students have access to adequate and appropriate counseling services.

1. When informing students about possible careers or professional or vocational opportunities, the Board shall not restrict or limit the options presented to students on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a).
2. The Board shall not use tests or guidance or counseling materials that are biased or stereotyped on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(d), the Board shall ensure the district's physical education is in a co-educational setting that is developmentally appropriate and does not discriminate on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a), as follows:

1. The district shall provide separate restroom, locker room, and shower facilities on the basis of gender, but such facilities provided for students of each gender shall be comparable;
2. The district may choose to operate separate teams based on sex in one or more sports or single teams open competitively to members of all sexes, as long as the athletic program as a whole provides equal opportunities for students of all sexes to participate in sports at comparable levels of difficulty and competency; and
3. The activities comprising such athletic programs shall receive equitable treatment, including, but not limited to, staff salaries, purchase and maintenance of equipment, quality and availability of facilities, scheduling of practice and game time, length of season, and all other related areas or matters.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28.; 18A:36-20.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1; 6A:7-1.3; 6A:7-1.7

Adopted:

PROGRAM
2411/ Career Education and Academic Counseling

2411 CAREER EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC COUNSELING

The Board of Education shall develop and implement a comprehensive system for the delivery, to all students, of guidance and academic counseling that facilitates career awareness, exploration, and preparation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-6.1.

The words and terms used in this Policy shall have the meanings as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.3.

A. Comprehensive System of Guidance and Academic Counseling

1. The system for the delivery, to all students, of guidance and academic counseling that facilitates career awareness, exploration, and preparation shall:
 - a. Be consistent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS);
 - b. Take into consideration the 2019 American School Counselor Association's National Standards for School Counseling Programs, incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented;
 - c. Be infused throughout the curriculum as appropriate for all students;
 - d. Be supported by professional learning programs;
 - e. Provide developmental career guidance and academic counseling, aligned with the NJSLS, designed to:
 - (1) Assist students in making and implementing informed educational and career choices, including opportunities to change career focus;
 - (2) Support students' academic attainment, career development, and personal/social development; and
 - (3) Develop students' understanding of the relationships among academic attainment, career development, and personal/social development; and

- f. Specify the delivery format, which may include:
 - (1) An integrated curriculum that is based on the NJSLS and provides students with the opportunity to engage in contextual learning, service learning, and/or work-based learning to acquire information about their career interests and/or take advanced coursework linked to their career interests; and/or
 - (2) Specialized programs that reflect the needs of students and the community.

B. Students With Disabilities

For students with disabilities beginning at age fourteen or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team, the Board shall ensure that career guidance and academic counseling are coordinated with transition services provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7.

C. Fulfillment of the NJSLS

- 1. In fulfillment of the NJSLS, the Board shall develop and implement the following for all students:
 - a. Curriculum and instructional methods that:
 - (1) Include the integration of technological literacy, consistent with the NJSLS;
 - (2) Include the integration of information literacy, consistent with the NJSLS and delivered in partnership by school library media specialists and classroom educators, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4.4. through 18A:7F-4.7.;
 - (3) Provide an understanding of the career applications of knowledge and skills learned in the classroom; and
 - (4) Provide opportunities to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real or simulated career challenges.
 - b. A system of career development activities that:

- (1) Offers the opportunity to more fully explore career interests that are linked to the NJSLS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:19 – Career and Technical Education Programs and Standards;
- (2) Provides the appropriate format for offering career-development activities based on school district resources, community needs, and student interest;
- (3) Identifies the delivery format, which may include:
 - (a) An integrated curriculum that is based on the NJSLS and provides students the opportunity to acquire information about their career interests and/or take advanced coursework linked to their career interests; or
 - (b) Specialized programs that reflect the needs of students and the community; and
- (4) Instills the concept of the need for continuous learning throughout life.

F. Guidance and Academic Counseling

The Board's comprehensive system for the delivery, to all students, of guidance and academic counseling that facilitates career awareness, exploration, and preparation shall involve the coordinated efforts of all teaching staff members under the leadership of certified school counselor(s).

G. Evaluation

1. The program of career education and academic counseling will be reviewed annually to determine its strengths and weaknesses. The following information to be reviewed may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. An annual record of graduate placements in post-secondary situations;
 - b. Assessments of past graduates as to the effectiveness of guidance services received in the high school;

- c. Results of surveys of parents and staff evaluations of guidance services;
- d. Analysis of the effectiveness of outside referrals;
- e. Assessments by persons not employed in the school district and experts in the field of career education and academic counseling;
- f. Personal evaluations of the career education and academic counseling staff members to identify weaknesses in the administration of the program; and
- g. Any additional information that assists in determining the strengths and weaknesses of the career education and academic counseling program in the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4.4. through 18A:7F-4.7.;
18A:61C-10.; 18A:61C-11.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1; 6A:7-1.3; 6A:7-1.7; 6A:8-6.1; 6A:8-6.2;
6A:19-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: