Curriculum Development & Evaluation

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Curriculum Review Committee

The Superintendent or designee may establish a curriculum review committee to evaluate and recommend curriculum for Board of Education approval. This committee shall consist of a majority of teachers and may also include administrators, other staff who have subject-matter expertise, parents/guardians, representatives of local businesses and post-secondary institutions, other community members, and students as appropriate. This committee may be the same committee charged with the evaluation and recommendation of instructional materials pursuant to Board policy and rule.

Curriculum Development/Selection Process

The Superintendent or designee shall research and identify available curriculum in the subject area(s) and grade level(s) scheduled for review. The Superintendent or designee may select a limited number of programs to present to the curriculum review committee for evaluation.

The committee shall recommend the curriculum that best meets the district's needs based on the following criteria and any additional factors deemed relevant by the committee:

1. Analysis of the effectiveness of the existing district curriculum for all students, including student achievement data disaggregated by grade level and student population

2. Alignment of the proposed curriculum with expectations established by the Board and the State Board of Education as to what students need to know and be able to do in the subject(s) and grade level(s) under consideration

3. Evidence of proven effectiveness of the proposed curriculum in raising student achievement, including the research and learning theory upon which the curriculum is based

4. Applicability and accessibility of the curriculum to all students, including, but not limited to, underperforming students, students with disabilities, English learners, and gifted and talented students

5. The estimated cost to purchase, and/or develop the curriculum

6. Resources required to implement the curriculum, such as time, facilities, instructional materials and technology, staffing, staff development, and funding

7. If the curriculum includes instructional materials, the extent to which the materials meet criteria established by law and the district

8. Represent diverse perspectives and be culturally relevant in accordance with Education Coe 60040-60043

9. Any potential impact on other parts of the educational program

If it is determined that available prepackaged curriculum is not cost effective or is inadequate to meet the needs of the district's students, the Superintendent or designee may adapt curriculum or develop new curriculum. Curriculum modification or development shall be performed by teachers, school administrators, and district administrators, with support and assistance, when available, from curriculum experts from the county office of education, postsecondary institutions, and/or curriculum or professional associations. Any modified or new curriculum shall be reviewed by the curriculum committee in accordance with the above criteria prior to being recommended to the Board.

Upon approval by the Board of Education, a new curriculum may be implemented in a limited number of schools or classrooms on a pilot basis so that modifications may be made as necessary before implementing the curriculum districtwide.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 4000-4091 School improvement programs
5 CCR 4400-4426 Improvement of elementary and secondary education
EDUCATION CODE
220 Prohibition of discrimination
221.5 Equal opportunity
243 Prohibition of discrimination; instructional materials
244 Prohibition of discrimination; instructional materials
35160 Authority of governing boards
35160.1 Broad authority of school districts
51050-51057 Enforcement of courses of study
51200-51263 Required courses of study
51500-51540 Prohibited instruction
51705-51879.9 Authorized classes and courses of instruction
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan
60000-60443 Instructional materials
GOVERNMENT CODE
3543.2 Scope of representation
PENAL CODE
11166.5 Employment; statement of knowledge of duty to report child abuse or neglect
MANAGEMENT RESOURCES
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade 12
Curriculum Frameworks for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade 12
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PUBLICATION
Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books, Legal Alert, Jan. 2024
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS
Instructional Materials Adoptions: State and local governing board processes, roles, and responsibilities, Governance Brief, Feb. 2024
Instructional Materials Adoption: Local governing board responsibilities, Fact Sheet, Feb. 2024
State Roles, Responsibilities, and Process for Instructional Materials Adoption, Feb. 2024
Defining High-Quality Instructional Materials for Mathematics to Meet the Needs of English Learners, July 2025

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLICATION
Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoption, March 2024
WEBSITES
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/#
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development http://www.ascd.org/
Association of California School Administrators http://www.acsa.org/
California Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development http://www.cascd.org/
California Department of Education, Curriculum and Instruction Resources http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci
CSBA http://www.csba.org/

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