ST. JOSEPH
SCHOOL DISTRICT







Curriculum Handbook

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SJSD Mission, Vision, and Core Values

SJSD Mission

Preparing students for a successful future

SJSD Vision

Empowering every learner, every day

Core Values

Communication, Respect, Courage, Problem Solving, and Engaged Citizen

The Foundation

The Saint Joseph School District is committed to maintaining a high-quality, rigorous curriculum for all educational programs serving more than 10,000 students. At the state level, the Missouri Learning Standards define the knowledge and skills students need at each grade level and in every course to be successful in college, post-secondary training, and careers. These standards ensure that students develop both foundational and higher-order skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. Learning outcomes are strengthened when students, parents, and teachers work together toward shared goals. The Missouri Learning Standards provide administrators, teachers, parents, and students with a clear road map for learning expectations in every grade and course.

During the 2020–2021 school year, educators and stakeholders across the state collaborated to review and analyze every Missouri Learning Standard in the four core areas: Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Through this process, key stakeholders identified priority standards to accelerate student learning. Research indicated that to be designated as a priority, a standard must demonstrate endurance, leverage, and essentiality. These priority standards serve as the foundation for teaching and learning decisions. They ensure that the focus remains on concepts that are life-worthy, essential for future learning, or assessed and emphasized on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP), the state's standardized assessment.

The Saint Joseph School District builds its curriculum on these Missouri Learning Standards. Research shows that when districts adopt standards-based learning, students take greater ownership of their education and achievement increases. Our curriculum is intentionally focused and structured through pacing guides designed to be completed within a school year. District curriculum writers align local priority standards with state expectations to guarantee a viable and equitable curriculum for all students. This ensures that every student has the

opportunity to master priority standards that support overarching learning intentions and success criteria.

Our curriculum is considered a living document, reviewed and revised on a rotating basis in alignment with state updates and current research. The district also provides professional development in connection with curriculum revision, equipping teachers with content-specific and grade-level instructional best practices.

SJSD Curriculum - Curriculum Writing and Revision Process

Writing: Year 1

Step 1: Research standards & best practices

Step 2: Analyze student performance data

Step 3: Select an instructional coach to lead curriculum design

Step 4: Recruit and organize teacher teams to write curriculum

Step 5: Establish a timeline for completion of the work

Step 6: Lead professional development to support curriculum writing

Step 7: Write & design the components of the curriculum

Step 8: Seek feedback from all stakeholders & revise work based on feedback

Step 9: Present final product to the school board

Step 10: Publish curriculum and provide resources and professional learning

Step 11: Continue to seek feedback from stakeholders

Step 12: Plan rollout and professional development

Launch: Year 2

Step 1: Roll out curriculum led by the content writing lead, instructional coach, and writers

Step 2: Schedule relevant PD to support the new curriculum

Step 3: Support teachers with unit planning and implementation

Step 3: Build meaningful resources to help support the teaching and learning

Step 4: Use the curriculum to build lessons and collect student work/evidence

Step 5: Monitor and analyze data for revision needs

Step 6: If revisions need to be made, it is decided upon by the lead instructional coach of that subject and director of curriculum and instruction to make those changes with teacher input.

Implementation & Evaluation: Years 3 & 4

Step 1: Monitor and analyze data for revision needs

Step 2: If revisions need to be made, it is decided upon by the lead instructional coach of that subject and director of curriculum and instruction to make those changes with teacher input.

School Year 2026–27

Curriculum Writing

K–8 Science

11 Government

7–12 ELA

K–5 Science

Curriculum Launch

K-6 ELA

Evaluation — Year 1

K–5 Math

7–12 Foreign Language

9–12 Physical Education

9–12 Industrial Tech.

Evaluation — Year 2

9–12 Science

7 and 9 World History

6–12 Math

8th Grade Careers

9–12 Speech, Debate, & Theater

SJSD Curriculum: Board Policies and Procedures

Policy IF: Curriculum Development

Procedure IF-AP(1): Curriculum Development

Procedure IF-AP(2): Curriculum Development – (Required Instruction)

Policy IIA: Instructional Materials

Procedure IIA-AP(1): Instructional Materials – (Textbook Selection and Adoption)