

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum development is an ongoing process in the school district and consists of both research and design. Research is the studious inquiry and critical investigation of the various content areas for the purpose of revising and improving curriculum and instruction based on relevant information pertaining to the discipline. This study is conducted both internally (what and how we are currently doing at the local level) and externally (what national standards, professional organizations, recognized experts, current research, etc. tell us relative to the content area). Design is the deliberate process of planning and selecting the standards and instructional strategies that will improve the learning experiences for all students.

A systematic approach to curriculum development (careful research, design, and articulation of the curriculum) serves several purposes:

- Focuses attention on the content standards of each discipline and ensure the identified learning's are rigorous, challenging, and represent the most important learning for our students.
- Increases the probability that students will acquire the desired knowledge, skills and dispositions and that our schools will be successful in providing appropriate learning experiences.
- Facilitates communication and coordination.
- Improves classroom instruction.

The superintendent is responsible for curriculum development and for determining the most effective method of conducting research and design activities. A curriculum framework will describe the processes and procedures that will be followed in researching, designing, and articulating each curriculum area. This framework will use the following list as a guideline to describe the processes and procedures for the curriculum development activities.

- *Study the latest thinking, trends research and expert advice regarding the content/discipline;*
- *Study the current status of the content/discipline (what and how well students are currently learning);*
- *Identify content standards, benchmarks, and grade level expectations for the content/discipline;*
- *Describe the desired learning behaviors, teaching and learning environment related to the content/discipline;*
- *Identify differences in the desired and present program and develop a plan for addressing the differences;*
- *Communicate with internal and external publics regarding the content area;*
- *Involve staff, parents, students, and community members in curriculum development decisions;*
- *Verify integration of local, state, and/or federal mandates (MCNS, school-to-work, etc);*
- *Verify how the standards and benchmarks of the content/discipline support each of the broader student learning goals and provide a K-12 continuum that builds on the prior learning of each level.*

Approved 10/19/09

Reviewed _____

Revised _____

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It is the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board apprised of necessary curriculum revisions, progress or each content area related to curriculum development activities, and to develop administrative regulations for curriculum development including recommendations to the board.

NOTE: This is a mandatory policy but the content is discretionary to the extent somewhere in the board policy the board describes its process for establishing content standards, benchmarks, performance levels, and annual improvement goals aligned with needs assessment information.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (2004).
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (2004).
Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 256.7, 279.8; 280.3-.14 (2007).
281 I.A.C. 12.5.

Cross Reference: 101 Mission and Educational Philosophy
103 Long-Range Needs Assessment
602 Curriculum Development
605 Instructional Materials