

2240 CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Free discussion of controversial issues -- political, economic, social -- shall be encouraged in the classroom whenever appropriate for the level of the group.

Issues may be considered controversial which arouse strong reactions, based either on personal conviction or allegiance to a group. School treatment of controversial issues shall be designed to instruct pupils in fair and objective study techniques. The decision on whether a particular controversial issue shall become a matter for school study shall be based on the timeliness of the question, the maturity and needs of the pupils and the purposes of the schools. Classroom discussions on controversial questions which arise unexpectedly shall be the responsibility of the teacher, who shall provide relevant information on both sides of the question. Such discussions shall be kept free from the assumption that there is one correct answer which should emerge from a discussion and be taught authoritatively to the pupils.

Pupils shall be taught to recognize each other's right to form an opinion on controversial issues, and shall be assured of their own right to do so without jeopardizing their relationship with the teacher or the school.

The Building Principal shall have the authority to limit or suspend discussion of controversial issues pending a review of the issue/materials. Instructional materials not previously approved must be reviewed by the Principal before being introduced into the classroom.

Adopted: 28 October 2008

Reviewed: 21 July 2021



2510 ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS

The Board of Education shall approve all textbooks used in the educational program of this district. "Textbook" means the principal source of instructional material for any given course of study, in whatever form the material may be presented, which is available or distributed to every pupil enrolled in the course of study.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the selection and recommendation of textbooks for Board consideration, but the Board may approve textbooks not recommended by the Superintendent.

In considering the approval of any proposed textbooks, the Board will weigh its value as a learning tool; its suitability for the maturity level and educational accomplishment of the pupils who will be using the book; its freedom from bias; its relationship to a course of study adopted by the Board; its relationship to a continuous multigrade program; its impact on community standards of taste; the manner by which it was selected; and its cost, appearance, and durability.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the selection of textbooks that include effective consultation with professional staff members at all appropriate levels.

Textbooks currently in use shall be periodically evaluated for their continuing usefulness and relevance and shall be replaced or updated with new editions as often as necessary to meet the needs of pupils and the curriculum.



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ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS

A list of all approved textbooks shall be maintained and revised annually by the Superintendent and made available for the use of the professional staff and for the information of members of the Board and the public.

N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1; 18A:34-2

Adopted: 28 October 2008

Reviewed: 21 July 2021



2230 CURRICULUM GUIDES (M)

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M

The Superintendent shall oversee development of curriculum guides for every course and area of study for every grade level. Each guide shall contain objectives for concepts and skills to be taught and attitudes to be developed; necessary study skills; suggested materials and activities designed to achieve all of these; and evaluation criteria intended to test the extent to which learning objectives have been met. Curriculum guides shall include all requirements of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Teachers shall use the guides as the core of their instructional planning. It shall be the responsibility of the Building Principal to ensure that curriculum guides are being followed.

A copy of each guide in use shall be kept on file in each school office. Such guides shall be available for public inspection.

Because curriculum guides are the means of implementing instruction in courses adopted by the Board as the curriculum of the district, the Board shall approve any new curriculum guides or any revision to an existing guide before they are put into effect.

N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1

Adopted: 28 October 2008

Revised: 21 July 2021



2220 ADOPTION OF COURSES (M)

M

The Board of Education shall provide a comprehensive instructional program to serve the educational needs of the children of this district by the adoption of courses of study.

For purposes of this policy, a “course of study” means the planned content of a series of classes, courses, subjects, studies, or related activities.

No course of study will be taught in this district unless it has been formally adopted by the Board. The Board shall determine which units of the instructional program constitute courses of study and are thereby subject to the adoption procedures of the Board.

The Superintendent is responsible for the continuous evaluation of the courses of study against the educational goals of the Board and shall recommend to the Board such new or altered courses of study as are deemed to be in the best interests of the pupils of this district. The Superintendent's recommendation will include the following information about the proposed course of study:

1. The specific objective of the course of study and the relationship of the course to the educational goals adopted by the Board;
2. The applicability of the course to pupils and an enumeration of those groups of pupils to be affected by it;



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3. A description of course content, including any instructional method that departs significantly from the ordinary and is an integral part of the course of study;
4. A rationale for the course in terms of the goals of this district and a justification of the course, especially when it is proposed to take the place of an existing course of study;
5. The resources that implementation of the course will require, including textbooks, material, equipment, and specially trained personnel;
6. The course proficiencies to be mastered by pupils;
7. The methods and standards by which the efficacy of the course will be monitored and evaluated; and
8. A developmental history of the course and, where available, information on its use elsewhere.

The Superintendent shall maintain a current list of all courses of study offered by this district and shall provide each member of the Board with a copy

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-25; 18A:4-28; 18A:33-1; 18A:35-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.; 6A:8-4.1; 6A:8-4.4



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Adopted: 28 October 2008

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2200 CURRICULUM CONTENT (M)

The Board of Education will provide the instruction and services mandated by law and rules as necessary for the implementation of a thorough and efficient system of free public education and such other instruction and services as the Board deems appropriate for the thorough and efficient education of the students of this 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 – Adoption of Courses.

For the purpose of this Policy “curriculum” means planned learning opportunities designed to assist students toward the achievement of the intended outcomes of instruction.

The curriculum will be reviewed by the Superintendent and shall, as a minimum, include the curricular mandates of N.J.S.A. 18A – Education, N.J.A.C. 6A – Education, and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing the curriculum approved by the Board.

The curriculum shall be consistent with the educational goals and objectives of this district and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and be responsive to identified student needs. The Superintendent shall, in consultation with staff members, assure the effective articulation of curriculum across all grade levels

Choose one or more of the following alternatives:

and among the schools of this district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.1 et seq.; 6A:14 et seq.
New Jersey Student Learning Standards

Adopted: 28 October 2008

Revised: 21 July 2021

Revised: 28 August 2024



2210 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (M)

The Board of Education is committed to the continuing improvement of the educational program of the district. To this end, the curriculum shall be evaluated and modified in accordance with a plan for curriculum development.

As educational leader of the district, the Superintendent shall be responsible to the Board for the development of curriculum and shall establish procedures for curriculum development that ensure the effective participation of teaching staff members, pupils, and members of the Board.

The Superintendent may conduct experimental programs that are not part of the duly adopted curriculum and are deemed to be necessary to the continuing growth of the instructional program; he/she shall report to the Board any such pilot program conducted, along with its objectives, evaluative criteria, and costs, before each such program is initiated.

The Superintendent shall report to the Board periodically on all progress in curriculum development.

Adopted: 28 October 2008

Revised: 21 July 2021

