

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

In order to achieve excellent educational outcomes for our students, the Board of Education supports a collaborative approach to district curriculum development. Our district's curriculum is not only aligned to the NYS Common Core Standards, but will also integrate the most effective practices, use interdisciplinary applications wherever possible, and will clearly articulate expectations as well as the content knowledge and related skills necessary for mastery from one level to the next, and from grade to grade. All students are assured equal access and opportunity to engage in challenging courses of study, regardless of national origin, race, color, religion, creed, gender or disability.

District curricula must be designed to effectively teach the necessary transferable knowledge and concepts, inclusive of the 21st century skills, which will prepare our students for college, career and life. Therefore, district curriculum will be developed collaboratively by those trained to do so (teachers, administrators, and other specialists in the field). The Board expects the curriculum to adhere to NYS Common Core Standards, and expects instruction to integrate proven educational theory and research-based best practices, and to always strive to achieve each student's highest potential. District curriculum will include clearly articulated content knowledge (what students will learn) and related skills (what students will be able to do). In support of this, the Board is committed to providing district students and staff with the appropriate instructional materials, tools, and professional development/training that is required to implement and continually improve the curricula within the confines of our allowable budget.

District curriculum will be written, taught, and tested. In order to verify our curriculum's implementation and effectiveness, the Board requires regular oversight, review and revision. Oversight will be provided by the Superintendent or his/her designee and building administrators in collaboration with the Board of Education. District curricula will be written and published on Rubicon Atlas, where it is available for public viewing via the district website. Curriculum effectiveness is measured by in-class benchmark assessments of student progress at all levels and abilities, as well as student performance on state and local tests, and teacher feedback. The Board expects administrators, teachers and staff to work together to recommend appropriate changes including but not limited to: course offerings, programs, instructional methodology, the tools required, and professional development activities that may be necessary to implement or improve our curricula. Those recommendations will be shared with the Board on a regular basis.

Teachers are directed to use the collaboratively created grade level curriculum published on the Rubicon Atlas as their map for laying out their lesson plans, along with the tools, materials and handbooks the district collaboratively selects. Instructional staff are encouraged to personalize and differentiate all lessons to meet the needs of each student in preparation for college, career, and life.

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