

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

Policy 330

Waunakee Community School District

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The major objective of curriculum development is to improve the District's educational offerings and its instructional activities and practices in order to increase student engagement in the learning process and improve student achievement. The School Board will provide the resources to develop and implement the curriculum within the financial capabilities of the District. The District's curriculum and instructional programs shall be in line with the state's educational standards, goals, and expectations; other applicable legal requirements; and the local goals and standards established by the Board and/or the administration.

To the extent consistent with the remainder of this policy, the Board delegates responsibility for the development, evaluation and improvement of the curriculum to the District's professional staff, under the leadership and direction of the District Administrator, Director of Instruction, building principals, and other administrators who have direct responsibilities in instructional areas.

Curriculum and instructional program development should be a participatory process within the District.

1. Communication and coordination among grade level and subject area teachers should be emphasized on a K-12 basis whenever curriculum is developed or evaluated. The Board encourages the use of intra-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary work teams.
2. The Board encourages practices that seek to engage the broader community in the evaluation of curriculum and instruction and in generating ideas for improvement.
3. The Board's belief is that all instructional personnel have a professional obligation to participate in and contribute to the curriculum development and evaluation processes.
4. Curriculum development and evaluation should be guided and supported by appropriate internal and external research.
5. The Board expects that the District's professional educators will seek and utilize resources and expertise from outside the District as they strive to develop and improve the effectiveness of the District's curriculum.

The District Administrator, or an appropriately-licensed designee, shall develop and implement a District curriculum plan to structure the curriculum development, evaluation, and improvement process. The District-level plan shall specify the normal allocation of instructional time among subject areas at the various instructional levels.

As part of the District-level plan, the District shall develop and maintain sequential curriculum guides, in either a print or electronic format, in the various subject areas identified in state law.

1. These guides shall provide the instructional framework for each broad area of study, and for specific courses.
2. Each guide shall specify the sequential learning objectives for the subject area and the core course content; identify the instructional resources that are available for each course/grade; identify appropriate means of student assessment; and include a program evaluation method.

3. The guides shall be aligned with applicable standards and goals. Explicit connections should be made between the standards and goals that are being addressed by particular curricular objectives and content.
4. The guides shall also be aligned with the District's locally-established learning goals and objectives. Explicit connections should be made between the local goals and objectives that are being addressed by the specific learning objectives and content of a given course of study.
5. The curriculum guides shall address and facilitate instructional differentiation within the applicable course of study.
6. Objectives and activities related to the use of technology and computer literacy shall be integrated into the curriculum guides for all grade levels.

The Board shall make decisions to add or remove District programs and areas of study. However, subject to the limitations and expectations defined in this policy, the administration shall have authority to approve and implement revisions to the various curriculum guides created for various subject areas. Within the programs and among the various courses and areas of study that have been approved by the Board, the District Administrator and building principals may also decide, without obtaining Board approval, whether a particular course, class, or curricular activity will be offered in a given mid-year term dependent on the grade level, or school year.

Instructional personnel are responsible for providing student instruction that is consistent with applicable academic and instructional standards, the approved curriculum, any mandatory instructional elements or assessments that are included in the relevant curriculum guide(s), and such other directives or expectations as may be established by the employee's supervising administrator(s). In most cases, these general boundaries are expected to leave instructional staff with reasonable professional latitude to creatively define particular instructional activities, approaches to instruction, assignments, and means of assessment that will further the objective of improving student engagement and student learning, and that will also further the District's locally-established learning goals and objectives for students.

The District Administrator, or an appropriately licensed designee, shall establish, continuously monitor, and revise as necessary (e.g., due to newly issued standards or due to targeting a specific area for improvement) a schedule for conducting periodic program evaluations in each area of study that is covered by the District's sequential curriculum guides. The overall program evaluation method shall be reviewed at least once every 5 years and revised as appropriate. After reviewing the results of such periodic evaluations, the District Administrator shall provide the Board with any reports and recommendations for possible Board action that he/she deems necessary or prudent.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

[Section 118.01](#)

[state educational goals and expectations]

[Section 118.015](#)

[development of a comprehensive reading curriculum]

[Section 118.019](#)

[human growth and development instruction]

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Section 118.30(1g)(a)1	[board adoption of academic standards]
Section 120.12(13)	[annual declaration and notice of academic standards]
Section 120.12(14)	[school board duty to determine school course of study]
Section 120.13	[school board broad power to do all things reasonable for cause of education]
Section 121.02	[school district standards; generally]
Section 121.02(1)(k)	[school district standards; curriculum plans]
Section 121.02(1)(L)	[school district standards; required instruction]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

PI 8	[school district standards, generally]
PI 8.01(2)(k)	[curriculum plan requirements for school districts]

Cross References:

310, Instructional Goals
335, Development and Sale of Curriculum Materials/Copyright Ownership
WASB PRG 330 Sample Policy 1

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