

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 105

SECTION: 100 Programs

TITLE: Curriculum
Development

ADOPTED: April 27, 1981

REVISED: June 24, 2021

105 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to providing every child equitable access to the resources they need to thrive in School District of Philadelphia (“District”) classrooms. The purpose of this policy is to provide all students the opportunity to receive high quality education with a curriculum that is regularly evaluated, developed, and modified on a continuing basis.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, terms are defined as follows:

Curriculum: A series of planned instruction aligned with established academic standards in each subject that is coordinated and articulated and implemented in a manner designed to result in the achievement of academic standards at the proficient level of all students. [1][2][3]

Authority

The Board is responsible for the curriculum of the District's schools. The curriculum shall be designed to provide students the opportunity to achieve the academic standards established by the State Board of Education and the Board. Attaining the academic standards requires students to demonstrate the acquisition and application of knowledge. [1][3][4]

As required by the Pennsylvania Public School Code and Department of Education Regulations, the Board shall adopt a curriculum plan that includes, but is not limited to, the following: the requirements for courses to be taught; the subjects to be taught in the English language; courses adapted to the age, development, and needs of students; and strategies for assisting those students having difficulty attaining the academic standards. [1][4][5][6][7][8]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, to be responsible to the Board for the District’s curriculum and establish administrative procedures for curriculum development, evaluation, and modification, which

ensure the utilization of available resources, and effective participation of a collaborative groups of stakeholders including administrators, teaching staff members, students, Board, and community members, and which must include stakeholders with expertise in content, alignment of standards, and curriculum development. [4]

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction or Superintendent's designee shall make available a listing of all curriculum materials for the information of parents/guardians, students, staff, and Board Members. [4][7][9]

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

The District's curriculum shall offer a full range of programs that strive to achieve the following goals:

1. Ensure that every student has developed their optimal level of intellectual capacity, academic ability, and content knowledge for post-secondary success.
2. Embed racial, linguistic, gender, sexual, and cultural identities in instructional practices, content, and materials.
3. Continuous learning through effective collaboration among the schools of this District.
4. Continuous access for all students to a sufficient library/media collection to support the educational program.
5. Guidance and counseling services for all students to assist in career and academic planning.
6. A continuum of educational programs and services for all students with disabilities, pursuant to law, regulations, and policies as adopted by the Board.
7. Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners and Limited English Proficiency programs for students whose dominant language is not English, pursuant to law, regulations, and policies as adopted by the Board.
8. Compensatory education programs for students, pursuant to law, regulations, and policies as adopted by the Board.
9. Equitable educational opportunity for all students, pursuant to law, regulations, and policies as adopted by the Board.
10. Career awareness and career and technical education, pursuant to law, regulations, and policies as adopted by the Board.
11. Educational opportunities for identified gifted students, pursuant to law, regulations, and policies as adopted by the Board.
12. Regular and continuous instruction in required safety procedures.
13. Affirm students' racial, linguistic, gender, sexual, and cultural identities, aligned with established academic standards in each subject area that prepare all students for rigor and independent learning, develop students' abilities to connect across lines of difference, elevate historically marginalized voices, and empower students as agents of social change.

The Superintendent or designee may conduct pilot programs as deemed necessary to the continuing improvement of the instructional program. The Superintendent, through the Office of Academic Supports or designee, shall, upon request, report periodically to the Board on the status of each pilot program, along with its objectives, evaluative criteria, and costs.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to actively pursue state and federal aid in support of research activities.

Legal References:

1. [22 Pa. Code § 4.12](#)
2. [22 Pa. Code § 4.3](#)
3. [Policy 107](#) - Adoption of Planned Instruction
4. [22 Pa. Code § 4.4](#)
5. [24 P.S. 1511](#)
6. [24 P.S. 1512](#)
7. [Policy 108](#) - Adoption of Instructional Resources and Materials
8. [Policy 127](#) - Assessments
9. [Policy 105.1](#) - Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students

Related Information:

[22 PA Code 4.21](#)

[22 PA Code 4.22](#)

[22 PA Code 4.23](#)

[22 PA Code 4.25](#)

[22 PA Code 4.27](#)

[22 PA Code 4.29](#)

[22 PA Code 4.82](#)

[Policy 112](#) - Guidance Counseling

[Policy 113](#) - Special Education

[Policy 138](#) - English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education Program

[22 Pa. Code 4.26](#)

[Policy 103](#) - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices

[Policy 103.1](#) - Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students With Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students

[Policy 115](#) - Career and Technical Education

[Policy 114](#) - Gifted Education

[Policy 805](#) - Emergency Preparedness

[Policy 105.1](#) - Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students