

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for the development, assessment and improvement of the educational program of its schools. To this end, the Board of Education is committed to establishing and maintaining a coordinated curriculum management process that:

- defines how the School District's curriculum is developed and approved.
- determines that the curriculum is taught and tested.
- provides for the ongoing review and evaluation of the curriculum.

In order to achieve its annual instructional goals, the Board of Education supports a collaborative approach to curriculum development. Such an approach must recognize the interrelation of a "core" curriculum and effective instructional processes, as well as interdisciplinary applications and articulation of programs from one level to the next.

A core curriculum will include basic content area knowledge and related skills, while keeping in mind that such information needs continuous updating. Curricula will also be designed to encourage transferable concepts and skills, including critical thinking skills. The Board of Education is committed to providing School District students and staff with appropriate instructional materials to implement curricula. In addition, all students are assured equal access to courses of study, regardless of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics or marital status.

The Superintendent of Schools shall work with other School District administrators to integrate current educational theory and research on curricula design and successful instructional strategies practiced by comparable districts. State syllabi, supplemental materials, and handbooks are to be used for general curricular guidelines. However, the Board of Education encourages the creation of flexible curriculum guides and the use of a variety of instructional materials that support these guides. Such materials shall reflect a sensitivity to School District students, their concerns, learning styles, and changing developmental abilities and needs.

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee will review musical selections to determine that musical selections:

- possess clear educational, musical, historical, and cultural value.
- are selected based on the developmental level of the students and the overall curricular goals of the music program.
- are appropriate for performance at any time.
- reflect and enhance student awareness and appreciation of various cultures.
- are presented in a sensitive manner emphasizing the educational and multi-cultural value of the music rather than any religious or seasonal aspect.

Parents and members of the community are encouraged to provide feedback on School District curricula and instruction. The Superintendent of Schools will consult with principals, other administrators, teachers, students, and the community in order to develop a responsive curriculum and to promote a continuing review and upgrading of such curriculum. To this end, the

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT TWENTY FOUR

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT

Policy 6121

Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee, shall periodically conduct a curriculum review which may include surveys, data analysis and a review of best practices. . This information, along with input from other sources, will be utilized in evaluating and revising School District curricula.

Curriculum changes will take into consideration the results of state and local testing and classroom evaluations, reflect minimum state requirements, and address further needs of the community and student populations. The Board of Education expects administrators and staff to work together in evaluating the educational program and recommending changes or additions in courses, programs, instructional methodology, and/or staff development activities which are necessary to implement such changes and/or additions.

Pilot Projects

In order to provide for constructive and responsive change and innovation in the schools, the Board of Education encourages the development of pilot projects aimed at improving the educational program.

A pilot project is defined as the introduction of a significant new educational program or teaching strategy on a trial basis. The pilot project will be implemented for a specific period of time deemed to be sufficient for fair evaluation of the project's feasibility and success in meeting a School District need.

All pilot projects must be submitted for prior approval to the Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent of Schools will submit periodic reports to the Board of Education on all ongoing pilot projects and evaluations.

At its meetings, the Board of Education will hear regular reports on curriculum-related matters such as instructional programs, the work of curriculum committees, and periodic evaluation of specific curriculum areas. The Superintendent of Schools will also be responsible for implementing curriculum studies, including pilot projects, as authorized by the Board of Education.

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