

Instruction

Curriculum Design/Development/Evaluation

The Curriculum Committee

Statement of Purpose

Curriculum development is a dynamic and continuous process by which a school system plans, implements, and evaluates its educational programs in a coherent and logical manner. Curriculum guides the teaching/learning process by defining what is to be learned, how it is to be learned and how it will be assessed. Through the use of written curriculum documents, teachers are able to ensure that every student will encounter a planned, on-going, and systematic program. To be highly effective, the written curriculum must be used by teachers on a daily basis to make instructional decisions that are focused on a common core of mastery objectives. The curriculum must also be flexible enough to allow for a teacher's creativity, enhancement and critical monitoring of effective learning strategies. The written curriculum must be a working document that is constantly reviewed and modified to meet the learning needs of students. Such responsibility will be that of the Director of Curriculum.

The Director of Curriculum will establish an orderly and ongoing process for assuring that there is a written curriculum in each discipline which accurately reflects the philosophy and goals of Andover Public Schools. To accomplish this purpose, the Director of Curriculum must actively engage in a process of determining the need for curriculum review and revision. The Director of Curriculum must review current research, understand the impact of state initiatives, and be aware of how the future affects today's curricular offerings. The Director of Curriculum shall recommend, develop, review, and approve all curriculum for the District which shall be submitted to the Board of Education for its review and approval.

Within the framework of the limited resources of time and money, each program offering must be routinely evaluated to determine those programs which are of value for today's learners and those which are not. It is through a process of ongoing evaluation that the Director of Curriculum will determine how best to design a curriculum which will meet the present and future learning needs of our students.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-16b Prescribed courses of study.
 10-16c et seq. re family life education.
 10-17 English language to be medium of instruction.
 10-17 et seq. re Bilingual instruction.
 10-18 Courses in United States history, government and duties and responsibilities of citizenship.
 10-18a Contents of textbooks and other general instructional materials.

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

- 10-18b et seq. re Firearms safety programs.
- 10-16b Prescribed courses of study.
- 10-16c et seq. re family life education.
- 10-17 English language to be medium of instruction.
- 10-17 et seq. re Bilingual instruction.
- 10-18 Courses in United States history, government and duties and responsibilities of citizenship.
- 10-18a Contents of textbooks and other general instructional materials.
- 10-18b et seq. re Firearms safety programs.
- 10-19 Effect of alcohol, nicotine or tobacco and drugs to be taught. Training of personnel. Evaluation of programs by alcohol and drug abuse commission and department of education.
- 10-19a et seq. re Substance abuse prevention team.
- 10-24 Course in motor vehicle operation and highway safety.
- 10-21 et seq. re Vocational education and cooperation with business.
- 10-220 Duties of boards of education as amended by PA 08-153.
- 10-221a High School graduation requirements.

Instruction

Religion in the Public Schools

Separation of Church and State

It is the policy of this Board that the public schools will, at all times and in all ways, be neutral in matters of religion.

This policy shall be understood in light of the public schools' responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. This policy shall also be understood in light of the public schools' responsibility to advance students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.

The building Principal is responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy. Pertinent information may be included in the student, parent and staff handbooks.

Holiday Programs

Programs that recognize religious holidays should be inclusive and primarily have an artistic, cultural or seasonal nature.

Students with written permission from parents and/or guardians and staff may elect to be excused from participating in holiday programs that are contrary to their religious beliefs unless the public interest compels such participation. The request to be excused from such participation should be sent to the Principal in advance of such program.

Absences for Religious Observances

Reasonable student absences for religious observances shall be excused. Furthermore, such absences shall neither prohibit receipt of attendance-related awards nor impact student grades or participation in school events.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-16a Silent Meditation

10-29a Certain days to be proclaimed by governor. Distribution and number of proclamations

Policy adopted: September 8, 2010

ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Andover, Connecticut