

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION

For the purpose of this policy “curriculum” means the Augusta School Department’s written document that sets forth the learning expectations for all students for all content areas of Maine’s system of Learning Results, as well as for other content areas as specified by the Board. The curriculum shall reflect continuous, sequential and specific instruction aligned with the content areas of the Learning Results.

The Board recognizes that curriculum development, review and evaluation is an ongoing process and those programs and practices may need to be adjusted or revised to meet educational standards and to serve the best interests of students and the community.

Therefore:

- A. The Board expects the administration and staff to be sensitive to changing conditions that may require modifications in curriculum.
- B. The Board expects all programs to be subject to ongoing review and evaluation to ensure that they meet the instructional needs of students.
- C. The Board expects the school system to undertake intensive curriculum revision as needed.
- D. The Superintendent is expected to lead the ongoing curriculum development and review process, and in aligning curriculum with educational standards and with advances in knowledge, educational research and “best practices.”
- E. The Board expects that curriculum development and revision will be achieved with appropriate involvement of administrators, instructional and support staff, students, parents, community and the Board.
- F. The Board shall review and adopt all curriculum guides, course descriptions and courses of study prior to their implementation.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing content area committees that will include representation from professional staff, including special educators, and others as appropriate. Each committee will be responsible for developing curriculum proposals that include content area philosophy, content standards and performance indicators

aligned with the Learning Results, and documents, forms and other materials that may assist staff responsible for implementing and/or evaluating curriculum. Curriculum proposals must be consistent with the school system's mission, educational philosophy and instructional goals. Curriculum committees may meet during the summer months as needed to facilitate development of curriculum proposals and implementation, evaluation and revision of curriculum.

Staff, parents, students and community will be offered the opportunity to provide input and such input will be considered before any curriculum proposal is presented to the Board's Curriculum Committee. The Curriculum Committee will make recommendations to the Board concerning adoption of curriculum proposals, curriculum guides, course descriptions and courses of study that reflect changes in curriculum.

The Superintendent or designee is expected to develop plans and timelines as necessary for the development, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum and to provide the Board with an annual report on the status of each content area of the curriculum.

The Superintendent or designee is expected to make recommendations concerning professional development, instructional materials and resources needed for curriculum implementation, consistent with Board policy.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1001(6), 6209
Ch. 127 § 5-7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross Reference: IHA–Basic Instructional Program
IL–Evaluation of Instructional Programs

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