

The Role of the School Board in a District Curriculum

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Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth

Objectives for this session:

- You have a better understanding of your role in curriculum development for your district
- You will have an understanding of the next steps you need to take in this important process



Statutory Role of a School Board

- Hire and evaluate a superintendent
- Create and adhere to board policy
- Create and monitor a budget
- **Approve district curriculum**



How does your district define curriculum? What is it?

Together in your groups come up with a definition for curriculum. Be prepared to share your definition with the rest of us.



Wikipedia's Definition

In education, a **curriculum** is broadly defined as the totality of student experiences that occur in the educational process. The term often refers specifically to a planned sequence of instruction, or to a view of the student's experiences in terms of the educator's or school's instructional goals. In a 2003 study Reys, Reys, Lapan, Holliday and Wasman refer to curriculum as a set of learning goals articulated across grades that outline the intended mathematics content and process goals at particular points in time throughout the K–12 school program. Curriculum may incorporate the planned interaction of pupils with instructional content, materials, resources, and processes for evaluating the attainment of educational objectives.



Curriculum Defined

- Curriculum is not just the textbook, program or listing of courses available
 - Includes the philosophy that governs instruction and practices that occur every year in classrooms
- Includes scope and sequence
- Defines what students should know and be able to do by the end of the course/year
- Based on the standards



Board's Curriculum Role in Statute

4 AAC 05.080

School Curriculum and Personnel

AS 14.14.100(a)

Bylaws and Administrative Rules



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Board Policies on Curriculum

(Kodiak Island Borough School District)

- BP 6000
- BP 6141
- AR 6141
- BP 6161.1



How does your district develop curriculum?

Take a few moments to fill out the district self assessment.

Discuss where your district is in this process with your neighbor. Identify two areas of need.

Write these on the index cards located in the center of your table.



District Self-Assessment

Please rate your district on the following scale:

- **4**- Our district has developed and implemented the practice suggested and we have moved towards integration of all subject areas to deepen student understanding of the content and knowledge expectations.
- **3**-Our district has developed and implemented the practice suggested. I feel confident we are doing the right thing for students.
- **2**-Our district is moving in the right direction; we still have some work to do.
- **1**-Our district has not begun or is in the beginning stages of this process.



Time for reflection

Discuss where your district is in this process with your neighbor. Identify two areas of need.

Write these on the index cards located in the center of your table.



Curriculum Development Procedures

- Budget considerations
- Cyclical Review Process
- Yearly scope and sequence of processes
- Advisory Committee and Sub-committee meetings goals and objectives
 - Who is involved? How are they involved?
- Adoption procedures



Curriculum Committees

Is there a role here for board members?

- **Oversee and help guide the decisions**
 - You have members in your district that are experts, rely on them to assist in this process
 - You too are the experts on policy and state mandates, your guidance is necessary
- **Ask questions**
 - To ensure that the committee is meeting the goals and objectives of the district
- **Listen to viewpoints of community and committee members**



What is the Board's budget role in curriculum development?

Money is always involved, instruction is at the heart of what we do.

In working with your Superintendent and other directors/coordinators, prioritize the needs for each review.



Is Data Relevant in Curriculum Development?

If so, what data?

- Student achievement on classroom, district, and state assessments
- Survey data collected during the review process
- Research based materials



Questions to answer when developing/ reviewing curriculum

- Essential Learnings
 - What do we want students to know and be able to do?
- Scope and Sequence/Materials
 - How are those learning spread throughout the year?
 - What will we use to teach the essential learnings?
- Assessment
 - How will we know when students have mastered the essential content?
 - What will we do when students are not meeting the targeted expectations?
 - What will we do with those students who excel at the essential learnings?



What is the Board's Role in Formally Approving Curriculum?

Being part of the process allows you to make informed decisions, communicate with community members, and develop relationships with the teachers, staff and administration in your districts.



Time for reflection

Are the two areas of identified need still your priority, or have they shifted? As you move through the next couple of days share these with other board members.

Challenge: Plan for the new year, how will your board become part of the process?



Objectives for this session:

- You will walk away with a better understanding of your role in curriculum development for your district
- You will have an understanding of the next steps you need to take in this process

Thank you for your time!

