

Curriculum

What Do I Need To Know and Why

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For AASB

Objectives for this session:

- A better understanding of curriculum and instructional materials
- A better understanding of the Board's role
- A better understanding of the steps in this 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 & instruction**

How do you define curriculum? What is it?

**In the chat box, write down your definition
of curriculum**

Definition & Clarification

Curriculum:

The aggregate of courses of study given in a school, college, university, etc. - Dictionary.com

Curriculum may incorporate the planned interaction of pupils with **instructional content, materials, resources, and processes for evaluating** the attainment of educational objectives.

Definition & Clarification

Curriculum is Not the Same as Books!

Further Explained: For a school district, the adopted document that contains the scope and sequence of skills and performance expectations from Kindergarten through 12th grade in a given subject area.

Curricular Resources: The textbooks, work books, and other resources that help teachers deliver on the standards of learning outlined in the curriculum document.

Definition & Clarification

- Curriculum is not just the textbook, program or listing of courses available
- It includes the philosophy that governs instruction and practices that occur every year in classrooms
- Includes a scope and sequence for implementation
- Defines what students should know and be able to do by the end of the course/year
- Aligned to and based on standards (**Alaska State Standards**)

Why it matters

Guaranteed and Viable:

Guaranteed means: teachers are expected to teach specific content in their specific courses and grade levels.

Viable means: the scope and sequence is actually attainable in the amount of time given to the subject.

Dr. Robert J. Marzano, in his description, rephrases these as “opportunity to learn” (**OTL**) and “time”.

OTL describes the opportunity students are given to learn content outlined in curriculum in the time made available in school.

Why it matters

Intended Curriculum:

state standards and the adopted district guidance document

Implemented Curriculum:

the portions of the curriculum actually taught

Attained curriculum:

the portions of the curriculum actually learned



How it is done

“if students do not have the opportunity to *learn the content expected* of them, there is little chance that they will.” - Dr. Marzano

District Staff responsibilities:

- study the local, state, and national standards
- create a scope and sequence of the skills and performance expectations
- know from one grade to the next what it is that students are expected to learn

How it is done

Staff Process

- Choose a subject to review, such as English Language Arts
- Bring together a representative group of educators
- Review the meanings of Guaranteed and Viable
- Study the standards and current data
- Break the standards into component parts: Example - Elementary ELA
- Study more. Participate in professional development
- Begin to draft grade level documents that outline scope and sequence

How it is done

Feedback, review, revision

- Committee takes draft document back to colleagues
- Staff survey on draft document to receive feedback
- Committee studies feedback and makes adjustments
- Committee presents draft to board members, solicits feedback and answers questions. If necessary, the document is revised.
- Staff solicits public feedback on document, and again considers changes to the draft.
- Final presentation to the board, and vote for adoption.

How it is done

Its adopted, now what?

- Publish the adopted document and make available to staff and families.
- Professional development for staff
- Staff committee to review and select *resources*
- Selected resources are *piloted*. Sample materials are made available for parent review.
- Staff and families are surveyed on satisfaction with piloted materials.

How it is done

Resource adoption

- If pilot is successful, present board with recommendation to adopt resources (textbooks, virtual learning programs & materials)
- Staff prepares a budget request to allow for purchase of adopted materials.
- Schedule staff training in effective use of purchased resources.
- Staff collaborates with partners *to align local resources* with the new curriculum document, and to integrate the scope and sequence with other subject areas and resources.
- Create assessments and reports to monitor proficiency with standards in the scope and sequence.

Board's Role in Curriculum in Statute

AS 14.14.100(a)

Bylaws and Administrative Rules

4 AAC 05.080

School Curriculum and Personnel

Board Policies on Curriculum

AASB Model Policy

● BP 6000

● BP 6141

● BP 6161

How does your district develop or review curriculum?

Describe what you know of your current district process

Who is involved in your process?

**Where is your district in this process with your neighbor.
Identify an area of concern.**

What is your comfort level with the process?

Curriculum Committees

Is there a role here for board members?

Yes – Observe & monitor!!

- Seek assistance and advice from your district “experts” and education professionals
- As the Board, you have expertise on policy and state mandates, your guidance is necessary

Curriculum Committees

Is there a role here for board members? **Yes - oversight!!**

Ask questions

- Align with goals and objectives of the district
- Align to the district strategic plan
- Culturally relevant & responsive

Take input from community and committee members

Data is Relevant to Curriculum Development & Adoption

Which data?

Student achievement – individual, classroom, district, and statewide

- Formative or growth assessments
- Summative assessments (Peaks, NAEP)
- Attendance
- Discipline or behavior

Survey data collected during the review process

Research based materials

What is the Board's fiduciary role?

The Board allocates resources to support curriculum

Work with your Superintendent and other district administration to prioritize the needs for each review.

Check alignment with the strategic plan - focusing on improving student achievement

Align budget resources to the prioritized needs for curriculum

Be sure to support professional development for full implementation!

Formal Approval of Curriculum & Instructional Materials

Generally:

Step 1

The Board receives a recommendation for approval from the Superintendent or a designated committee

The board makes the recommendation available for public review

The Board may desire to establish public hearings on the recommendation prior to formal adoption (recommended)

Formal Approval of Curriculum & Instructional Materials

Generally:

Step 2

At a subsequent meeting, the Board introduces by motion the adoption of the recommendation

Boards may use a “2 reading” process if they so choose but not required

Adoption requires a majority approval

If adoption includes allocating funds a roll call vote may be required

Formal Approval of Curriculum & Instructional Materials

For the Juneau School District:

Step 1

The Superintendent brings to the Board a recommendation for curriculum and instructional material approval.

Formal Approval of Curriculum & Instructional Materials

For the Juneau School District:

Step 2

The Board introduces in first reading the approval of the superintendent's recommendation.

The board takes public input.

Formal Approval of Curriculum & Instructional Materials

For the Juneau School District:

Step 3

The Board May proceed to a second reading for approval of the superintendent's recommendation.

or

After public input and board deliberation return the matter back to the superintendent for further work

Formal Approval of Curriculum & Instructional Materials

For the Juneau School District:

Step 4

The Board approves the recommendation in final reading.

Now it's approved....

Boards should:

Allocate funds and amend the district budget as necessary to implement the adopted curriculum & materials.

(if not previously budgeted)

Now it's approved....

Boards should:

Ensure the adopted curriculum and materials are implemented by requiring **accountability** – periodic reporting on the implementation progress.

Now it's approved....

Boards should:

Review data that evaluates the effectiveness of the approved curriculum, materials and instructional methodologies – **student achievement.**

Now what?

Boards should:

Prepare for the next review cycle.

Thank You!

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