

The Role of the School Board in Curriculum & Instruction

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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?

**Turn to an elbow partner and try to
answer these questions.**

Curriculum Defined

- 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**)

Board's Curriculum Role in Statute

4 AAC 05.080

School Curriculum and Personnel

AS 14.14.100(a)

Bylaws and Administrative Rules

Board Policies on Curriculum

School District Policy

- BP 6000 Concepts and Roles
- BP 6141 Curriculum Development and Evaluation
- BP6161.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials
 - AR 616.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials

Curriculum Development Procedures

Typical Cyclical Review Process

- Establish yearly scope and sequence of processes
- Advisory Committee and Sub-committee meetings goals and objectives
- Who is involved? How are they involved?
- Adoption procedures (check board policy)
- Budget considerations

Curriculum Committees

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

Oversee and help guide the decisions

- Seek assistance and advice from your district “experts” and education professionals
- The Board has expertise on policy and state mandates, your guidance is necessary

Ask questions

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

Listen to community and committee members

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

The Board allocates resources to support curriculum

Instruction is at the heart of what school districts do.

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

Align the curriculum & instruction to the strategic plan focusing on improving student achievement

Align and apply budget resources to the prioritized needs

Might be an iterative process – look for creative solutions to support priorities

What has been the Board's Role?

The Board has been engaged during the process

The Superintendent guides and coordinates the process

The Board has become well informed

The Board has develop constructive relationships

The Board must follow district policy regarding formal adoption

BP 6141, BP 6161.1, AR 6161.1

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