

# **The Role of the School Board in Curriculum & Instruction**

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# 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?**

**Discuss your 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. ....

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
  - 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 Role in Curriculum 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
- BP 6141
- BP 6161



# ASD Policy Example

[ASD Board Policy Online](#)

# How does your district develop or review curriculum?

describe what you know of your current district process

Who is involved in your process?

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

What is your comfort level with the process?

# Curriculum Development Procedures

## General Review & Development 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
  - Superintendent recommendation
  - Board Approval
- 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
- 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!!**

## 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 in Curriculum Development

## 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

# Data is Relevant ASD Example

Which data have you used?

Talk to your elbow partner

# What is the Board's fiduciary role?

## 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



# The ASD Board Example

**The Board allocates resources to support curriculum**

# Questions when developing/reviewing curriculum

## Essential Learning

- What do we want students to know and be able to do?

## Scope and Sequence/Materials

- How is learning spread throughout the year?
- What will we use to teach the essential elements?

## 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 learning?

# What has been the ASD Board's Role?

The Board has been engaged during the process

The Board must follow district policy regarding formal adoption

BP 6141.1, BP 6161.1, AR 6161

# 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 Anchorage 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 Anchorage 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 Anchorage 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 Anchorage School District:**

## **Step 4**

The Board approves the recommendation in final reading.

# It is approved! Now what?

## **Boards should:**

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

(if not previously budgeted)

# It is approved! Now what?

## Boards should:

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

# It is approved! Now what?

## Boards should:

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

# It is approved! Now what?

**Boards should:**

Prepare for the next review cycle.