

FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

CURRICULUM

5150

5150.1 As the educational leader of the District, the Superintendent shall be responsible to the Board for the development of curriculum.

5150.2 The Board shall adopt curriculum and supporting planned courses for all subject areas taught in the District. These planned courses shall be developed with the assistance and approval of the Superintendent. The planned courses shall be appropriate to the academic and developmental levels of the students.

5150.3 Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply.

Curriculum - A series of planned courses that are coordinated and articulated with one another and implemented in a manner designed to result in the achievement by all students of the specific knowledge and skills and application of this knowledge.

Planned Course - Instruction offered by a school district based upon a written plan which consists of at least the following elements: the content, related materials, activities and estimated instructional time; the relationship of course outcomes to State outcomes, to other planned courses, to outcomes in the District's Strategic Plan; and the procedures for Assessment of the outcomes.

Local Assessment Plan - The School District Assessment system as described in Section XI of the District's Strategic Plan.

Content - The specific knowledge and skills to be achieved by all students.

5150.4 It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to see that all required planned courses are taught. Any proposals for new course offerings or pilot programs shall require the approval of the Superintendent prior to drafting.

5150.5 Curriculum Council

The Superintendent is directed to form a curriculum council to review all new planned courses, course revisions and any other issues impacting school district curriculum prior to formal Board evaluation and adoption. This council shall be composed of members of the administrative and teaching staff as well as a representative from the community, the student body, and the Board.

The major functions of the curriculum council shall be as follows:

- 5150.5a to review existing programs and to discuss proposed curriculum changes
- 5150.5b to enhance communication between administrative and professional staff and the Board, the parents and the larger community
- 5150.5c to function as an advisory group
- 5150.5d to foster coordination, integration and articulation of school programs from kindergarten through 12th grade
- 5150.5e to assist in setting goals, assessing needs, establishing priorities and developing plans and strategies for meeting identified needs
- 5150.5f to provide information to the various constituencies through their committee member representative.

5150.6

Review and Approval Process

In order for the Board to adequately comply with existing laws and regulations, it is necessary to periodically review and formally approve all planned courses, textbooks, and the local assessment plan. The following tenets are to be followed by the staff in order to maximize the Board's responsiveness to the district's curriculum.

- 5150.6a There shall be locally developed planned courses for all grade levels and subjects in existence in the school district. These planned courses shall be revised for re-adoption by the Board every five (5) years on a cyclic basis, as designated by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. Curriculum and planned courses shall:
 - (1) Identify the goals, and expected measurable learning outcomes to be achieved for each course.
 - (2) State the scope and sequence of the content that will be taught to reach the stated goals, and expected measurable learning outcomes.

- (3) List the materials, resources, activities and estimated instructional time for the stated content.
- (4) Describe enrichment activities including those for the gifted and modifications including those for learning support.
- (5) Describe the procedures for assessment of the student learning outcomes.

5150.6b Planned course adoption shall coincide with a textbook adoption process.

5150.6c A local District Assessment Plan shall be adopted and shall incorporate the State Assessments. Review and revision of the local assessment plan shall occur at least every three years.

5150.6d Planned courses shall be developed in harmony with state regulations and guidelines, relevant federal requirements, and the stated philosophy and goals of the District.

5150.6e The Board shall be afforded a two (2) month period to review curriculum and planned courses and to consider the adoption of new courses and/or the revision of existing courses.

5150.7 The Superintendent is authorized to use outside curriculum specialists to provide the expertise that may be needed in current trends, goals and methodology.

5150.8 Copies of the planned courses in complete sets shall be available in each administrator's office and the school libraries. These shall be made available for public review upon request. Each teacher shall be provided a copy of the appropriate planned courses for his/her area of instructional responsibility as well as the preceding and subsequent grade levels.

Revised August 5, 1996