

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION

As defined in Maine Department of Education rules, “curriculum” means MSAD 55’s written document that sets forth the learning expectations for all students for all content areas of Maine’s system of Learning Results, as well as for other content areas as specified by the Board. “Course of study” means a planned program of learning designed to prepare students to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results for each of the grade spans, as specified in local school board policy.

The MSAD 55 curriculum shall reflect continuous, sequential and specific instruction aligned with the knowledge and skills identified in the content areas of the Learning Results and the “Guiding Principles” of the Learning Results. Through its curriculum, the schools will provide courses and/or learning experiences that support multiple pathways for learning, accommodate a variety of learning styles, provide multiple options for students to demonstrate proficiency, and prepare students for responsible citizenships and success in a global society.

The Board recognizes that curriculum development, review and evaluation is an ongoing process, and that programs and practices may need to be adjusted or revised to meet educational standards, to reflect community aspirations and values, and to serve the best interests of students.

In development, revision and evaluation of curriculum, the Board expects that:

- A. School administrators and staff will be sensitive to initiatives such as the *Common Core* and *Next Generation Science Standards*, and other changing conditions that may require modifications in curriculum.
- B. All programs will be subject to ongoing review and evaluation to ensure that they meet the instructional needs of students.
- C. The school system will undertake intensive curriculum revision as required by the Curriculum Committee.
- D. The Superintendent/designee will take the lead in the ongoing curriculum development and review process and in the alignment of curriculum with educational standards and with advances in knowledge, educational research and “best practices.” Curriculum development and revision will be achieved with appropriate involvement of administrators, instructional and support staff, and the Board.
- E. The Superintendent/designee shall select major purchases of text materials with the approval of the Curriculum Committee. The chair of the Curriculum Committee shall report this major text choice to the Board, and the Superintendent shall make all text purchases under rules adopted by the Board.

The Curriculum Committee will review all curriculum guides and courses of study prior to their recommendation for adoption by the Board.

The Superintendent/designee shall:

- A. Develop plans and timelines as necessary for the development, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum.
- B. Make recommendations to the Board, consistent with Board policy, in regard to professional development, instructional materials and the resources needed for curriculum implementation.
- C. Report annually or as otherwise requested, to the Board on the status of the curriculum.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1001(6), 4701-4729, 6209
Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule Chapters 125, 127

Cross Reference: ADF - School District Commitment to Learning Results
IJJ - Instructional and Library-Media Materials Selection
IL - Evaluation of Instructional Programs

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