

Curriculum Development and Adoption

For the purpose of this policy “curriculum” means RSU 40 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. The curriculum must reflect continuous, sequential, and specific instruction aligned with the content areas of the Learning Results.

The curriculum should also:

1. Be agreed-upon and shared district/school wide
2. Be coherently and vertically aligned within and across grades
3. Articulate what students should understand, know, and be able to do during the course of their academic careers
4. Provide indicators of assessment evidence and learning experiences designed to help all students reach those outcomes
5. Be reflected in the classroom learning
6. Be guaranteed - ensures that specific content is taught in specific courses and grade levels
7. Be viable - ensures there is enough instructional time available to actually teach the identified content as important.

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

Therefore, the Board expects:

1. The administration and staff to be sensitive to changing conditions that may require modifications in curriculum.
2. All programs to be subject to ongoing review and evaluation to ensure that they meet the instructional needs of students.

3. RSU 40 to undertake intensive curriculum revision as needed.
4. The Superintendent/designee will lead the ongoing curriculum development and review process, and in aligning curriculum with educational standards and with advances in knowledge, educational research and “best practices.”
5. That curriculum development and revision will be achieved with appropriate involvement of administrators, instructional and support staff, students, parents, community, and the Board.
6. The Superintendent/designee will develop plans and timelines as necessary for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum and to provide the Board with an annual report on the status of the curriculum.
7. The Superintendent/designee will make recommendations concerning professional development, instructional materials, and resources needed for curriculum implementation, consistent with Board policy.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S. §§ 1001(6), 6209
Maine Department of Education Rule Chapter 127 §§5-7

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