

# **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

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The board recognizes that curriculum development must be an on-going process in order to continually address the changing needs and diversity of all students and to fulfill the educational goals of the board. The board further recognizes that while educators must be responsible for developing the curriculum, parents, other governmental agencies, businesses and members of the public have valuable insights in the type of curriculum needed.

## **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

Curriculum will be developed to meet the requirements of the state and local board. The North Carolina Standard Course of Study will provide the foundation for local curriculum development. The superintendent is responsible for establishing a curriculum committee to coordinate curriculum planning and ensure that the curriculum is aligned with the standard course of study and articulated from grade to grade.<sup>1</sup> Teachers should receive appropriate training so that they may participate in the curriculum development. The committee must include central office administrators, teachers and school administrators representing the various schools and grade levels. The committee also must seek input from parents, the community and experts to make fully informed decisions.

The committee may recommend that the board expand subject areas and objectives of the curriculum to meet the educational goals of the board and state and federal laws.<sup>2</sup> The committee also may recommend eliminating subject areas or objectives that are not state required or related to the educational goals of the board.

## **CURRICULUM MODIFICATION BY INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS**

The principal is the instructional leader of the school and is responsible for determining whether the curriculum meets the needs of the students of the school. Accordingly, the principal or his or her designee may consider modifying the curriculum.<sup>3</sup>

If a school wishes to modify the curriculum, it may submit its proposal to the central staff. Unless the central staff have significant concerns about the proposal, the changes will be approved so long as the curriculum maintains continuity. If the modifications include: (1) expanding or reducing the subject areas or the objectives, (2) eliminating subject areas or objectives not required by the State, or (3) waiving local board policies, the proposal, after being approved by the central staff, must be submitted to the board for approval as a part of the School Improvement Plan process.<sup>4</sup> District staff will ensure that the curriculum continues to be aligned and articulated.

## **EVALUATION**

The superintendent will ensure that the methods for meeting curriculum objectives are regularly evaluated for their effectiveness. The board also encourages external curriculum audit by professional curriculum assessors.

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<sup>1</sup> The type of committee structure can be modified. Although the policy can be more specific about the process, including the appointment or election of committee members, it may be helpful to allow the superintendent to have some flexibility.

<sup>2</sup> The policy also can identify and explain the purpose of a board committee on curriculum.

<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, the school-based team could be designated to modify the curriculum.

<sup>4</sup> The local board must approve significant modifications to the curriculum. However, having such approval as part of the school improvement plan process is optional.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81; G.S. 115C-105.27

Cross references: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000)