

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Curriculum Development	Date Approved: December 14, 1999 January 17, 2006, February 17, 2009 September 28, 2021 Date Revised: December 12, 2002, December 13, 2005 December 16, 2008, December 09, 2020 Date Effective: December 14, 1999 January 17, 2006, February 17, 2009 September 28, 2021

1. PURPOSE

To establish the principles of curriculum development.

2. POLICY

- A. Continuous work is required to maintain an up-to-date and effective curriculum which meets the needs of students and the expectations of the community:
 - (1) The curriculum of the Somerset County Public Schools will meet with federal, state and local requirements and be fully aligned with Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards.
 - (2) The curriculum will be subject to ongoing evaluation and review. The Board of Education expects the school system staff to be sensitive to changing conditions that may require changes in the curriculum. The Board expects the school system staff to undertake intensive curriculum research, evaluation, and revision in certain areas as the need for this is demonstrated.
- B. The Superintendent of Schools, as the Boards executive officer, will be responsible for coordinating the educational offerings in the system. All programs and/or courses proposed for inclusion in the curriculum will be referred to the superintendent. Curriculum development, adoption and implementation will be the responsibility of supervisors, principals, and other administrators and professional staff under the guidance of the Division of Instruction staff. When a new course is being introduced into the course catalogue, and subsequent curriculum is being chosen, a representative parent group will be chosen to review and provide feedback on the textbook or text choices. Further each school affected by the new curriculum will have a Parent Night to introduce, provide information and solicit parent input on the new curriculum.

- C. The Board will hear regular reports on system programs and curriculum.
- D. Selected professional staff will be expected, as part of their professional obligations, to participate in curriculum development or adoption. This contribution may include service on special committees established by the superintendent or on teacher committees established at the school, grade, and/or subject level.
- E. The following goals will be used in the selection and development of all instructional materials for the District. Instructional materials shall:
 - (1) Support and enrich the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of the students served.
 - (2) Stimulate student growth in critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving and support lifelong learning and workplace applications.
 - (3) Be of sufficient variety to meet the diverse needs/characteristics of students and present balanced but differing views of issues, controversial or otherwise, in order that students may develop analytical and decision-making skills.
 - (4) Contribute to the development of an understanding of the diversity of other cultures of American life by being appropriately inclusive regarding the roles and contributions of various groups and cultures.
 - (5) Contribute to the development of self-respect, pride and an appreciation of differences and reflect respect for the worth and dignity of all people.
 - (6) Offer the most appropriate format(s)(including technological, visual and/or auditory components) to support adopted curriculum.
 - (7) Be generally free of bias and stereotyping. The Board recognizes that under certain circumstances biased materials may serve as appropriate resources to present contrasting and differing points of view, and biased materials may be employed in order to teach students about bias, stereotyping, and propaganda. Also, classic and contemporary literary works, periodicals, and technical journals may be selected even if they do not meet this general standard, if otherwise educationally necessary or appropriate.
 - (8) Professional staff is encouraged to contribute supplemental instructional materials. It is the professional responsibility of the staff member to review and determine the appropriateness of the material prior to presentation. Training to staff will be conducted to assure that material is presented in a balanced, non-biased approach.
- F. Requests for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials
Parents, guardians, of Somerset students may request removal or restricted use of core and/or supplemental instructional materials for their student. Formal requests must be made in writing as per the Administrative Procedures for this policy