

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Curriculum Programs	Date Approved: December 14, 1999 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009 Date Revised: December 13, 2005 December 16, 2008 Date Effective: December 14, 1999 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009

1. **PURPOSE**

To establish curriculum program uniformity

2. **PHILOSOPHY**

- A. The Board of Education recognizes the need for students to acquire basic skills and higher order thinking skills in all content areas, and that students differ in the style of classroom instruction that serves their needs best. Comprehensive educational programming based on the individual needs of students will be provided in Somerset County Public Schools. The business of the schools is to equip all children with the skills, tools and attitudes which will lay the basis for learning now and in the future. This means giving highest priority to developing fundamental skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics, and technology. The Board is concerned with meeting the individual needs of students. Students should be the center and the focus of tile educational resources of the school system and the Board confirms its obligation to educate all students.
- B. Elementary Schools - Each elementary school is unique in its makeup and total program; yet, each is a very definite part of the total elementary school program. There are procedures which are common to all elementary schools and there is a consistent approach to the program of studies, to the use of teaching aids and materials, to textbooks in all subjects and to the sequential development of skills.
- C. Secondary Schools - Secondary schools continue the program of studies of the elementary schools at correspondingly higher levels of development with the courses generally more specialized. The program of general education for all students will be continued through required courses in English, social studies, mathematics, science and physical education. Opportunities to develop special proficiency in mathematics, science, foreign languages and other subjects are offered to students with unique aptitudes in these areas. Business, career and technology subjects are also available to help students meet their educational goals.

Somerset County Board of Education
Policy # 500-8
Page 2

Including elective courses are art and music, both vocal and instrumental. in which students may develop particular skills or an appreciation that might otherwise remain dormant. All elementary and secondary schools adhere to the following:

- (1) The philosophy in each school is based on the basic principles of child growth and development.
- (2) Each school has, as its chief concern, the quality of classroom instruction.
- (3) Each school has made provisions for varied types of inservice experiences which enable the classroom teachers to be informed and better trained.
- (4) Each school allocates resources for classroom material and equipment appropriately.
- (5) Each school puts forth special effort in maintaining home-school-community relations.
- (6) Each school has a school improvement team and a school improvement plan which focuses on student achievement partnerships, and a safe and orderly environment.
- (7) Elementary SIT Plans must meet Title I component requirements.
- (8) Each SIT plan will be evaluated through a peer review before final submission.