

BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

FILE: IHA

TITLE: The Curriculum

POLICY:

Curriculum is a course of study that includes the knowledge, skills, and attitudes all students are expected to acquire and be able to apply as a result of their school experiences. Quality curriculum is coherent, relevant, and goal based. It reflects and is responsive to a wide range of cultural diversity and is based on a universal design for learning. Curriculum should be research based, focused on an integrated, experiential approach, and open to revision and refinement.

- (1) The School Board of Orange County, Florida ("Board") expects that district curriculum be determined by the following:
 - (a) State student performance standards, curriculum frameworks and assessments;
 - (b) Students' needs as determined by studies, surveys, and need assessments;
 - (c) Continuous evaluation of curriculum effectiveness in meeting students' needs in the district; and
 - (d) Florida Statutes and Florida Board of Education Rules.
- (2) The Board shall approve the courses of study for all the schools of the district in accordance with Florida Statutes and Florida Department of Education regulations.
- (3) The Superintendent or designee may appoint such committees and special study groups as may be necessary to assist in determining the educational needs of the district.
- (4) The program of instruction shall include the following:
 - (a) Elementary Level Curriculum. The elementary curriculum shall be based on the belief that learning is unique to each individual. The developmentally appropriate curriculum shall be designed to provide opportunities for students to demonstrate continuous progress toward state and school board-adopted student outcomes. The integrated instructional program shall include English language arts, reading, mathematics, social studies, science, health, physical education, music, art, computer science, and foreign language, all of which shall be appropriately enhanced and supported by technology. Other resources and services shall be provided as needed. Continuous assessment with feedback shall be an essential part of learning and shall be a critical component of the instructional process.
 - (b) Middle Level Curriculum. The middle level curriculum shall encompass courses which meet the needs of all students and meet middle school promotion requirements. Mathematics, English

language arts, reading, science, social studies, music, art, health, physical education, exploratory career education, computer literacy, computer science, critical thinking skills, and foreign language, all of which shall be appropriately enhanced and supported by technology. Activities which offer desirable experiences such as consumer education, music, drama, creative writing, and student government shall be promoted. Instruction in the use of the media center and counseling services shall be provided. Continuous assessment with feedback shall be an essential part of learning and shall be a critical component of the instructional process.

- (c) High School Curriculum. The high school curriculum shall encompass courses which meet the needs of all students and prepare students to meet high school graduation requirements. Courses shall be offered which prepare students for postsecondary studies or job entry upon graduation. Instruction in the use of the media center and counseling services shall be provided. A broad program of student government, student publications, drama, music, social activities, and athletics shall be provided for the development of well-rounded citizens. Continuous assessment with feedback shall be an essential part of learning and shall be a critical component of the instructional process.
- (5) The district shall ensure that members of the instructional staff teach efficiently and faithfully, using the instructional materials required that meet the highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy, following the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods of instruction the additional required topics at the appropriate grade levels identified in Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes.
 - (a) These topics shall include, but are not limited to: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, the Federalist papers, flag education, the elements of civil government, the history of the United States, the Holocaust, the history of African Americans, the elementary principles of agriculture, the effects of alcoholic beverages and narcotics, kindness to animals, Florida history, conservation of natural resources, health education, internet safety, Hispanic contributions to the United States, women's contributions to the United States, free enterprise, character development, Veteran's Day, and Memorial Day.
- (6) A new course may be introduced into the district curriculum by following guidelines established by the Florida Department of Education.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY:

Sections 1001.03; 1001.42; 1003.42; 1006.28; 1008.25; 1012.27, Florida Statutes

Rules 6A-1.09401 and 6A-1.09412, Florida Administrative Code

ADOPTED: 11/17/08
REVISED: 9/29/15