

6140 CURRICULUM ADOPTION

The Board of Education shall provide a comprehensive instructional program to serve the needs of the children of this district. In furtherance of this goal and pursuant to law, the board shall annually adopt the existing courses of study. Adoption includes both content and credit allocation. The board's policy in this respect is to:

1. Adopt those courses of study mandated by the state in a form acceptable to the state department of education. Such courses must include the New Jersey Student Learning Standards adopted by the State Board of Education;
2. Adopt additional courses of study recommended by the teaching staff and administration in a form acceptable to the state department of education and within the financial means of the district;
3. Adapt and revise existing courses of study to meet the changing needs of pupils and the community.

Existing courses shall be reviewed at regular intervals and revised as necessary. No course of study shall be eliminated, revised or implemented without the approval of the board.

The Board directs that the curriculum of this district:

1. Be consistent with written goals, objectives and identified pupil needs;
2. Develop individual talents and interests and serve diverse learning styles to motivate pupil achievement;
3. Provide for continuous learning through effective articulation;
4. Provide all pupils continuous access to sufficient programs and services of a library/media facility, classroom collection, or both, to support the educational program;
5. Provide all pupils guidance and counseling to assist in career and academic planning;
6. Provide a continuum of educational programs and services for pupils with disabilities, pursuant to law and regulation;
7. Provide bilingual programs for pupils whose dominant language is not English, pursuant to law and regulation;
8. Provide all pupils equal educational opportunity, pursuant to law and regulation;
9. Provide instruction in African-American History, including the Amistad, and the history of other cultures taught as part of the history of the United States ([N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1](#));
10. Provide instruction on the Holocaust and other genocide curricula at all grade levels ([N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28](#));
11. Provide instruction on the political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, in an appropriate place in the curriculum of middle school and high school students as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards ([N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.35](#));

CURRICULUM ADOPTION (continued)

12. Incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 8. This instruction shall:
 1. Highlight and promote diversity, including economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance;
 2. Examine the impact that unconscious bias and economic disparities have at both an individual level and on society as a whole; and
 3. Encourage safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender identities, mental and physical disabilities, and religious beliefs.
13. Provide career awareness and vocational education, pursuant to law and regulation;
14. Provide educational opportunities for exceptionally gifted and talented pupils.

The chief school administrator shall maintain a current list of all courses of study offered by this district; shall furnish each member of the board of education with a copy upon request; and shall provide a copy in the district office for public perusal.

Adoption of courses shall be by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the board. This includes the courses in the special education and ESL/bilingual programs, and those for the adult high school.

Date: May, 2020

Readopted: June 23, 2020

Mandated:

[N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.36](#) requires the board to have policies and procedures in place pertaining to the selection of instructional materials on the political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, in an appropriate place in the curriculum of middle school and high school students as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Other Reasons:

[N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1](#) requires a roll call majority vote of the full board to adopt or alter a course of study.

[N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1](#) requires the high school two-year course of study in the history of the United States to include materials recommended by the commissioner dealing with the history of African-Americans.

[N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28](#) requires every board of education to include instruction on the Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school pupils.

[N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.35](#) requires every board of education of districts with middle and high school students to include instruction on the political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, in an appropriate place in the curriculum.

Indicators related to Amistad and the Holocaust and other genocide are part of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Policy related to the requirements to teach the history of African-Americans and instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides is monitored as part of the Comprehensive Equity Plan Assessment conducted by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Recommendation:

A policy requiring the board to readopt existing curricula annually, and reaffirming that only board-adopted curriculum can be implemented in the district. The policy should address the content and purpose of the total curriculum and may provide guidelines to be used in judging new curriculum presented for adoption.

Adoption of curriculum for special education, bilingual/ESL, and adult education should be mentioned in the policy, but dealt with in the discrete policies on these topics.

Legal References:

[N.J.S.A. 18A:4-25](#) Prescribing minimum courses of study for public schools; approval of courses of study

[N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.35](#) History of disabled and LGBT persons included in middle and high school curriculum

[N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.36](#) Policies, procedures pertaining to inclusive instructional materials

[N.J.S.A. 18A:29A-1](#) *et seq.* Teacher recognition

[N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1](#) District to furnish suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study

[N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1](#) *et seq.* Curriculum and courses

[N.J.S.A. 52-16A-88](#) Responsibilities and duties of the Amistad Commission

[N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.1](#) *et seq.* Standards and Assessment

See particularly:

[N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1](#), [-5.1](#)

[N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.1](#) General requirements

[N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.1](#) *et seq.* Bilingual education

See particularly:

[N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.3](#), [-1.4](#), [-1.5](#)

[N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1](#) *et seq.* Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
The Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey State Department of Education

Possible Cross References:

*6141 Curriculum design/development

6141.1 Experimental/innovative programs

*6142 Subject fields

*6142.2 English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural

*6143 Curriculum guides

*9325.4 Voting method

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Cross References: List your appropriate policies. See legal reference sheet for possibilities.

Key Words

Curriculum Adoption, Adoption of Curriculum, Core Proficiencies, Curriculum

Franklin Lakes School District