

Curriculum Development And Design

General Principles

Curriculum development is an ongoing process which evolves from the changing needs of students, the community, and society.

Curriculum includes all planned learning experiences under the direction of school personnel.

Curriculum content in the Fresno Unified School District is determined by state requirements and by local needs.

Curriculum preparation is the result of cooperative participation of students, teachers, parents, coordinators, directors, administrators, community groups, the State Department of Education, and the federal education agencies.

Curriculum Development Process

Curriculum development in Fresno Unified School District is accomplished as follows:

1. Identification of a particular need.

The original idea for curriculum change may be initiated by any one or combination of the following:

Parents/guardians

Teachers

Students

Curriculum committees

Area/Site Administration

Central Office Administration

The Community

The Governing Board

It derives from evaluation of existing curriculum and through identification of unmet student needs.

2. Consideration of proposed curriculum change.

Curriculum change may involve one teacher and one class or may be for one subject or department in a school or the district.

a. Change involving individuals or departments in schools usually develops through pilot programs or subject area innovations designed by the personnel feeling the need for change. The pilot progresses through several levels of approval with final approval by the Board of Education.

b. Change in districtwide curriculum is generally achieved through curriculum committees which revise or develop new courses of study. Minor modifications are often made yearly. Major modifications to existing curriculum are resubmitted to the Board of Education for approval.

c. Change which presents curriculum content in new and innovative ways is within the purview of the school site.

3. Courses of Study/Curriculum Guides

By state law the district must maintain Board-approved courses of study and/or curriculum guides for all subjects and grade levels. The principal task of curriculum committees is to develop and maintain up-to-date courses of study/curriculum guides which reflect latest and best teaching methods and materials. The office of Curriculum and Instruction maintains a current file of all the courses of study/curriculum guides, pilots, and innovations adopted by the Board. Each teacher is provided a copy of the district course of study/curriculum guide in the subject or subjects which he/she teaches. It is expected that teachers will follow these courses of study/curriculum guides in their daily instruction. The principal of the school, as instructional leader, is instructed to supervise compliance with this Board mandate.

Course of study/curriculum guide development is based on the philosophy, goals, and objectives of the district, alignment with the State Frameworks, and curriculum policies of the Board of Education.

Appraisal of Proposed Changes

Pilot courses and/or subject area innovations developed at a school site shall be submitted to the Department Chair, Head Counselor, and Principal for review and recommendation at the site. If approved, at the site, the pilot and/or subject area innovation shall be submitted to the District Subject Area Coordinator; the Research, Evaluation, and Assessment Department; the Administrator of Curriculum and Instruction; and the Assistant Superintendent, High School or the Associate Superintendent, Instruction Division, for District review and recommendation; and then to the Board of Education for approval.

Pilot courses, subject area innovations, new and revised courses of study, and/or curriculum guides developed within the Curriculum and Instruction Department shall be submitted to the Research, Evaluation, and Assessment Department; the Administrator of Curriculum and Instruction; and the Assistant Superintendent, High School or the Associate Superintendent, Instruction Division, for District review and recommendation; and then to the Board of Education for approval.

Pilot courses and subject area innovations shall remain in effect for one year, after which the initiator(s) of the pilot or subject area innovation will facilitate the preparation of a course of study in conjunction with the appropriate subject area coordinator. The course of study will be

submitted to the Administrator of Curriculum and Instruction and the Assistant Superintendent, High School or the Associate Superintendent, Instruction Division, and then to the Board of Education for approval. Failure to submit a course of study within the year following the one year pilot status will result in the removal of the pilot from the district master list of courses.

The general review of courses of study/curriculum guides (grades 7-12) includes alignment to State Frameworks and Standards The review cycle is to follow as closely as possible the State of California seven-year Textbook Adoption cycle.

Regulation FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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