



Responsible Office: Office of Academics

BOARD POLICY 6605

ACADEMICS: CURRICULUM & CONTENT STANDARDS

PURPOSE

The District, through adoption and implementation of the Nevada Academic Content Standards, shall challenge all students to reach their full potential by specifying what students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level and in each area of study on the pathway to college and career readiness. The individual needs of diverse student populations, including students with disabilities and English Language Learners, are considered in curricular decisions so that academic standards are attainable.

POLICY

1. The District shall adhere and comply with all state and federal mandates and shall implement policies and procedures to enable all students to participate in the educational process.
2. Content Standards
 - a. Standards used in Washoe County School District shall meet or exceed the Nevada Academic Content Standards adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education.
 - b. Teachers and administrators are required to implement the Nevada Academic Content Standards. While the standards define what students need to know, they are not designed to dictate how teachers teach or how students should learn; nor do the Standards dictate what lesson plans, programs or textbooks teachers will use for curriculum.
 - c. Teachers and school administrators will receive professional development to ensure their understanding of the content standards and to discuss instructional methods in preparing students to meet the standards.
 - d. Staff will continually assess students' progress toward meeting the standards and shall offer remedial assistance as necessary.

3. Curriculum Philosophy

- a. The District shall strive to provide all students with equal access and opportunities to progress through a curriculum that sets high learning expectations for students.
- b. Districtwide curriculum planning shall be coordinated to ensure that the needs of students are met and that goals and objectives are aimed at giving students the knowledge and skills needed to progress along the pathway to graduation.
- c. Curriculum shall reflect current research, best practices, and technological advancements across all content areas and all levels. Students with disabilities shall be afforded the same expectations when participating in an instructional program based on their individualized education program (IEP).

4. Curriculum Responsibility

- a. The appropriate instructional departments and District office personnel shall work with schools to provide on-going training and support to ensure implementation of the District's curriculum. It is the responsibility of the teacher to plan instruction that ensures that curriculum objectives are taught and that student learning is assessed. The teacher shall use a variety of instructional and assessment strategies with multiple resources to teach and measure the acquisition of those objectives. The teacher may enhance instruction beyond those objectives.
- b. It will be the responsibility of the site principal, as instructional leader, to ensure that the required and enriched curriculum objectives are being planned for, taught, and assessed in all content areas at all levels.

5. Curriculum Development

- a. The District's curriculum development shall address the following:
 - i. An aligned, written, taught, and assessed curriculum;
 - ii. Periodic review of subject and course curriculum by stakeholders
 - iii. Vertical articulation and horizontal coordination for all grades;
 - iv. A diversity of materials aligned to the curriculum;
 - v. Staff training and evaluation of all District curriculum;
 - vi. Multi-faceted assessment to drive informed curriculum decisions.

- b. The annual budget shall be linked to curriculum priorities and data-driven decisions shall be made to provide learning environments supported by adequately trained personnel.
- c. The District shall establish a procedure for the addition of new courses which adheres to state guidelines and meets the needs of special populations.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Career and college ready" requires more than just a high school diploma. It means that a high school graduate is ready to pursue preparation for a highly-skilled career and is admissible to and prepared to succeed in first-year, credit-bearing classes without remediation, at a 2- or 4-year college, technical or trade school, or apprenticeship program. A "career" differs from a "job" in that a career offers the opportunity to advance and develop professionally.
2. Curriculum is that which is written as part of a formal instruction of the schooling experience. It may refer to curriculum documents, texts, and support materials that are overtly chosen to support the intentional instructional agenda of a school. Successful curriculum models are coherent at each grade level as well as vertically aligned, and provide meaningful learning for students in all content areas.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. All students will graduate from high school ready to pursue college and/or a highly skilled career having mastered the standards in their course of study.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan.
2. This policy aligns with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 4600, Professional Learning
 - b. Board Policy 6200, Literacy
 - c. Board Policy 6300, Mathematics
 - d. Board Policy 6400, Assessment
 - e. Board Policy 6505, Pathways to Early College Credit
 - f. Board Policy 6600, Course of Study

3. This policy aligns with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. Chapter 389, Examinations, Courses, Standards and Graduation
 - b. Chapter 391, Personnel
 - c. Chapter 392, Pupils

REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board of Trustees shall receive notification of any required changes to the policy as well as an audit of the accompanying governing documents.
2. Administrative regulations, and/or other associated documents, will be developed as necessary to implement this policy.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
9/22/2015	1.0	Adopted