

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this Curriculum Development Policy is to share the process by which the district designs and makes available continually updated curriculum coordinated from pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 that is consistent with the state standards and Frameworks.

Continuous assessment and reflection is required to maintain an up-to-date and effective curriculum in a constantly changing world. The Ipswich School Committee will encourage and support the professional staff in its efforts to investigate new curriculum ideas and to develop and improve programs and assessments.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for supporting the Director of Teaching and Learning in writing and implementing the district's Curriculum Review Cycle. This includes the Director of Teaching and Learning guiding and leading the Compass Committee.. The Compass Committee members are stipended personnel with the responsibility of reviewing, developing, assessing and revising district approved curriculum that integrate locally developed Successful Habits of Mind in compliance with the state standards and Frameworks. These curriculum development processes will be shared with the broader school community to help build capacity and alignment for curriculum development district-wide. It is the expectation of the district that the curriculum is aligned both vertically (across grade-level teams) and horizontally (PreK-12).

As such, curriculum development -- including researching, writing, giving feedback to and implementing -- will be carried out under the supervision of the Superintendent of Schools and Director of Teaching and Learning as consistent with related School Committee policies and state standards and Frameworks.

Compass Committee members' duties and responsibilities are as follows:

- Follow the district's Curriculum Review Cycle to facilitate the development of a shared curriculum vision, development and revision that is connected to district, school and team goals.
- Participate in curriculum design professional development provided by the district.
- Collaborate with other Compass Committee members to develop a curriculum delivery system.
- Model the development of an integrated curriculum unit for colleagues.

- Facilitate and encourage continued design and alignment at the district, building and team level.
- Acts as a liaison/resource to colleagues and administrators.
- Share out the work of the Compass Committee with colleagues.

In addition to the work of the Compass Committee, the Director of Teaching and Learning may work with other professional staff to develop and offer opportunities for teachers to research, write and implement curriculum. It is the role of the Director of Teaching and Learning to assure the alignment of curriculum to best support the learning of Ipswich Public School students.

In addition, all educators have professional obligations to the school program beyond regular classroom duties. These obligations include working on curriculum committees to create curriculum that is aligned with the learning expectations and standards established by both the district and state. It is expected that all teachers engage in curriculum writing work and that that work is done with both horizontal (across grade level teams and others teaching the same course) and vertical (PreK-12) considerations.

The Director of Teaching and Learning with the support of the Superintendent of Schools may bring together staff members currently employed by the school system and oversee them in curriculum research, writing, alignment and/or reviewing work. This may happen either during the summer or at another time.

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