

It shall be the policy of Minidoka County Joint School District No. 331 that all curriculum and instruction be under the supervision of the Superintendent, or designee, and the building principals. Instructional objectives in each subject area shall be developed under the supervision of the Superintendent, or designee. Committees may be appointed for the development and/or updating of curriculum in each subject area.

**Provisions:**

The following provisions will assist in the implementation of this policy:

**1. Curriculum Design**

- a. The Curriculum shall be designed to meet requirements and standards of the State Board of Education and the local Board of Trustees.
- b. Research validated materials are to be identified and used. A validation process will be used to select instructional materials that promote high levels of achievement or new programs that are highly correlated to effective research.
- c. The curriculum shall be revised and updated as necessary to provide the best educational opportunities for the students.

**2. Curriculum Consultants**

- a. The administrative personnel may, upon request, utilize state consultants and other special consultants in revising and upgrading curriculum.

**3. Curriculum Standards**

- a. All schools within the district will utilize current state curriculum standards and make them accessible to each teacher and the public.

**4. Instructional Practices & Materials**

- a. It shall be the professional responsibility of each teacher to utilize best instructional practices outlined in Charlotte Danielson's four domains of Enhancing Professional Practice: a Framework for Teaching as detailed in the District's Components of Professional Practice for Teachers evaluation rubric.
- b. It shall be the professional responsibility of each teacher to use district approved curriculum with fidelity, follow school or department pacing schedules, and administer program specific assessments.
- c. It is the district's expectation that all teachers will actively participate in scheduled collaborative meetings for the purpose of enhancing student learning as determined by student data.
- d. Department heads and/or instructional coaches shall review and provide timely, constructive feedback to teachers regarding instructional practices and, when necessary, provide professional development based on teacher needs.
- e. Administrative personnel shall review and evaluate instructional practices used by teachers through informal walk-through observations and annual evaluations.

**5. Assessment Guidelines**

- a. Reliable and valid assessment measures will be administered in all grades according to state and district testing practices.

**6. Equipment and Instructional Materials**

- a. Furniture, equipment, texts, reference books and other educational materials necessary to provide each student the best possible educational opportunities shall be provided to the extent fiscal resources permit.
- b. The principal of each school shall be responsible for ordering all necessary equipment and supplies needed for the proper implementation of his/her school's program.

**7. Class Size**

- a. Every attempt shall be made to maintain class size which conforms to the recommendations of recognized educational authorities and the Idaho State Department of Education. Class size should promote an educational setting which permits the teacher(s) to best serve the individual interest and welfare of the student.
- b. Building principals shall retain discretion as to how to best utilize staff allocation resources as determined by the Superintendent.

c. Whenever K-2 class sizes are above 24, or grades 3-5 are above 30, then the following steps shall be taken:

1. The building administrator shall address class size concerns through balancing class loads and taking into consideration special needs, behavioral concerns, gifted students and, where possible, parental requests.
2. The building administrator will meet with grade level teams to review class size concerns and brainstorm other building level options.
3. After all above actions have been exhausted and the class sizes continue to increase above 24 and 30 respectively, then the superintendent will be notified. The Superintendent will meet with the building administrator and grade level teams as needed to seek District level assistance.

**8. Instructional Grouping and Scheduling**

- a. Tiered instruction occurs in small groups with students grouped by similar needs, and groups are flexible to accommodate and reflect student performance.
- b. Group size will be differentiated according to the level of performance; that is, students with the greatest needs are placed in the smallest groups.
- c. Students will be placed, maintained, and monitored at an appropriate level.
- d. Flexible, homogenous skill groups and additional interventions are employed when appropriate.
- e. Scheduled instructional time allocations will be based on student needs. For example, a daily minimum of 120 minutes of total instructional time in the core program is allocated to reading instruction in grades 1-5.

**9. Homework**

- a. Assigned homework shall be reasonable and conducive to the learning habits of students and compatible with the unit's objective.
- b. Such homework should vary according to the grade level and maturity of the students.
- c. Extra homework assignments shall not be used as a disciplinary tool.
- d. It shall be the building principal's responsibility to orient and interpret the above policy to teachers and to assure compliance.

**10. Supplemental Materials**

- a. X and R rated films will not be used in any classrooms in Minidoka County Schools under any circumstances. PG13 movies are not permitted in middle and elementary schools. The use of full feature (Hollywood style) movies or films is generally not appropriate for an academic setting. There are issues related to copyright laws (any use other than private home viewing is generally prohibited by law) and best practices in teaching that should be considered. Any such use of movies or videos other than short clips to enhance a teaching standard or lesson objective requires prior approval by the building principal. Movies for strictly entertainment purposes are not appropriate.

**11. Community Resources**

- a. Whenever possible, community resources may be utilized by teachers to enrich the instructional programs. All such community volunteers must meet the volunteer requirements as defined in state code and district policies (1008.00 and 1008.01).

**12. Controversial Issues**

- a. Teachers are not to impose personal views during instruction of controversial issues, such as religion and politics. Controversial topics may be discussed providing both view points are presented. Issues contradicting community standards must have principal approval.

**13. Sex Education**

- a. Sex education shall be limited to those topics which are contained within the Sex Respect curriculum.
- b. Movies or films with sexual implications must be approved by the building principal and Superintendent of Schools before they may be shown.



**LEGAL REFERENCE: Idaho Code § 33-512(11)**

**ADOPTED: Original Adoption Date Unknown**

**RATIFIED: September 18, 2006**

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