

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

3340 S. Harlem Ave. Riverside, IL 60546
708-447-5007
708-447-3252 *fax*
www.district96.org



To: Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye, Superintendent
From: Angela Dolezal, Director of Teaching and Learning
Date: December 18, 2024
Re: Instructional Update for PRESS Policy 6:60 - Curriculum Content Revisions

PRESS Issue 117 includes revisions to Policy 6:60 - Curriculum Content. These revisions include the following:

- The expansion of mandated instruction on the dangers of Fentanyl to grades six through eight.
- The addition of student engagement in career exploration and career development activities for students in grades six through eight.
- The addition of environmental education instruction, including conservation of natural resources and, beginning in Fall 2026, instruction on Climate Change.
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Below are details about how Riverside School District 96 is, or will, address the above revisions.

The expansion of mandated instruction on the dangers of Fentanyl to grades six through eight.

- Students in grades six through eight take Health for 5 weeks throughout the school year.
- Using an outside resource, EverFi, eighth-grade students learn about
 - Basic Fentanyl facts
 - What counterfeit pills are, why they are dangerous, and what they can do to stay safe
 - How to respond to an overdose situation, specifically involving Fentanyl
- Moving forward, the PE department, Hauser Administration, and Director of Teaching and Learning will ensure vertical alignment of this and other drug-related information from sixth to eighth grade.

The addition of student engagement in career exploration and career development activities for students in grades six through eight.

- Riverside District 96 will collaborate with Riverside Brookfield High School (RBHS) and its other feeder districts, Komarek School District 94 and Brookfield-LaGrange School District 95.
- The Des Plains Valley Region (DVR) will lead this collaboration. The DVR is a cooperative in which RBHS participates. The DVR also oversees Riverside School District's \$1,000 Career & Technical Education Improvement (CTEI) Grant.

- The Hauser Administration and the Director of Teaching and Learning are developing a framework of Career Exploration expectations by grade level for Riverside School District 96 sixth- through eighth-grade students. This framework will follow the Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework.

The addition of environmental education instruction, including conservation of natural resources and, beginning in Fall 2026, instruction on Climate Change.

- Through our *Mystery Science* Curricular Resource and our *Core Knowledge Language Arts* (CKLA) Curricular Resource, various elementary grade levels learn about weather patterns and their environmental impact.
- Seventh-grade students learn about weather and its impact on climate through our *Investigating and Questioning our World through Science and Technology* (IQWST) Curricular Resources.
- Seventh-grade students also learn about the human impact on the planet through our *My Perspectives* Language-Arts Curricular Resource.
- The Director of Teaching and Learning will continue to review our science scope and sequence to ensure grade levels continue to learn about the conservation of natural resources and climate change.