

Existing policy with required modifications.

Instruction

Basic Instructional Program

The basic instructional program of the New Fairfield Public Schools shall be approved by the Board and be in accordance with the law.

Although learning experiences offered students vary according to their individual needs and abilities, the instructional program will be designed to give all students a common body of skills, understandings, attitudes, and knowledge needed for living in a democratic society.

As required by law the Board shall provide a program of instruction which shall include at least the following subject matter as taught by legally qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education; health and safety; including, but not limited to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid; including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training; disease prevention, and cancer awareness, including but not limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast cancer and testicular cancer; community and consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use and related disorders; teen dating violence awareness and prevention, substance abuse prevention; safety; which shall include the safe use of social media, as defined in C.G.S. 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang membership, and safety and accident prevention; instruction on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); language arts, including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics, physical education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government and history and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; African-American and black studies; Puerto Rican and Latino studies beginning with the school year commencing July 1, 2021; **Native American Studies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year**; computer science, including, but not limited to, computer programming instruction, and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies high school course in accordance with P.A. 19-12.

~~Language arts may~~ **World languages shall** include American Sign Language provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a certified teacher.

The “arts” means any form of visual or performing arts which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

The implementation of these programs shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools in cooperation with the building principals.

The Board of Education in establishing and approving curricula to implement the mandated instructional program for the school district will give due consideration to the possible adoption and use of the model curriculum for grades K-8 developed by the Connecticut State Department of Education in collaboration with the State Education Resource Center (SERC), upon its availability.

Instruction

Basic Instructional Program (continued)

Such consideration and Board action shall be based upon the recommendation of the District Curriculum Committee.

Note: The addition, as part of the health and safety curriculum, of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, is to be based on the guidelines for emergency cardiovascular care issued by the American Heart Association and shall include, but not be limited to, hands on training in CPR.

In addition, boards of education are allowed to accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations, to purchase equipment or materials needed to provide CPR instruction in the schools.

The addition of instruction on the safe use of social media (blogs, video blogs, podcasts, instant messaging, and other user-generated content) and computer programming instruction is also effective beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

Note: Sections 1 and 2 of P.A. 19-12 add African-American and black and Puerto Rican and Latino studies to the required program of studies beginning in the 2021-22 school year. A black and Latino studies high school course may be offered beginning with the 2021-22 school year. Such course must be offered beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

Boards of education may use existing and appropriate public or private materials, personnel and other resources, including SBE curriculum material. Boards are also allowed to accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations for the development and implementation of the curriculum. The curriculum must meet SBE-approved statewide subject matter content standards.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-16b Prescribed courses of study, as amended by PA 08-153, PA 11-136, PA 14-234, PA 15-17, PA 15-94, PA 15-138, PA 16-188, PA 18-24, PA 18-182, PA 18-181, PA 19-12, PA 19-128, and PA 21-2 JSS Sections 374, 375, 376, 377).
10-18 Courses in United States History, government and duties and responsibilities of citizenship.
10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.

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