



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

November 1, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: 9.2

**TOPIC: APPROVE PROPOSAL TO ADJUST CURRICULUM
REVIEW STRUCTURE**

BACKGROUND: The current Curriculum Review and Development Cycle is a five year process incorporating different phases of curriculum review and development each year. This review process has been integral to conversation around best instructional practice and gains in student achievement over the past 12 years. The process is in need of updating and modification based on the needs of the 14 content area departments that use the process as well as reductions in the curriculum department over the past 3 years.

PROCESS: The current Curriculum Review and Development Cycle includes conversation and work around how district curricula align with the Minnesota Academic Standards and/or national standards for each content area, as well as the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. Departments have engaged in refining course offerings across the K-12 spectrum, analyzing data, and recommending professional development to improve instruction. Inclusion, diversity, multiculturalism, gender fairness and technology integration, are also assessed during the cycle. As the teachers and administrators work throughout the process, feedback is sought from the Curriculum and Instruction Advisory Committee.

Through the district's membership in EMID, the Curriculum Department was introduced to and included in training for Atlas Curriculum Mapping, a web-based tool that allows departments to record intended and taught curriculum, as well as compare student achievement progress across courses and buildings. This potential has been explored by a team of teachers over the past year. Several teams are ready to begin the process of mapping, working collaboratively to align intended and taught curriculum, course by course. Those teachers currently involved believe that the mapping process, utilizing the Atlas tool, will be beneficial to curriculum discussions in the future.

The proposed changes move the curriculum review process from a 5 year cycle to a four phase procedure. Departments will move through the phases of curriculum review through the use of Curriculum Review Meetings, District Department Meetings, and Professional Learning Team Meetings. The focus topics for each phase are included on the attached document.

We are hopeful that proposed changes in the process will allow the strategic work necessary in curriculum review to continue with a K-12 emphasis in all areas.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of adjustment to the curriculum review structure and process.