

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 to seek participation by all stakeholders in its responsibility for preparing students for the twenty-first century. This preparation includes aligning the curriculum to allow students to successfully achieve the standards adopted by the Board, as measured by appropriate assessments.

The Board recognizes that it is essential to the implementation of the curriculum standards and assessments that all stakeholders in the District are given an opportunity to participate in all aspects of the implementation process.

DEFINITIONS

Course Benchmarks - Statement of what information and what skills/processes students should know/understand or be able to do at the end of a designated course. Since high schools are structured around courses rather than grade levels, course benchmarks articulate for content-specific academic standards at secondary level.

Curriculum Guides - Introduce appropriate curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices that align with and support students learning the standards.

Grade Level Benchmarks - Statements of what information and skills/processes students should know/understand or be able to do at the end of each grade. They provide more specificity and act as a measuring stick to determine where students are in their learning in relationship to where the District would like them to be. Grade level benchmarks are typically articulated for content-specific academic standards for Grades K-8.

Grade Level and Department Teams - Teams of certified staff members meeting for the purpose of evaluating the District's current curricula, developing objectives/strategies, and assessing student achievement.

Stakeholders - Those individuals in the District who have an interest in the implementation of curriculum standards, including, but not limited to, members of the Board of Trustees, administration, staff members, educational consultants, student advocates, parents, and community members.

Standards - General statements that identify what information students should know/understand or what skills/processes they should be able to do as a result of their educational experience. Standards represent what students should accomplish by the end of their high school experience.

Standards and Assessment Committee - A District-wide committee responsible for developing a systematic approach to implementing the standards and assessments.

Standards Documents - Identify what knowledge students should learn as a result of their educational experience.

Strategic Plan - The District's written Strategic Plan, as approved by the Board of Trustees, setting forth the goals and objectives of the District, including, but not limited to, curriculum development.

Subpopulations of Students - The various categories of students, relative to educational need, including, but not limited to, Special Education, Title I, Advanced Placement, Limited English Proficiency, Section 504, and Gifted and Talented, as well as racial, ethnic, gender, and other relevant classifications.

Supporting Knowledge - The knowledge necessary for students to become proficient in the defined benchmarks. Supporting knowledge might include vocabulary, details, organizing ideas, skills, and processes.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Trustees will review and amend, as appropriate, the District's Vision Statement to ensure that it presents a compelling description of the future state of the District and the implementation of curriculum standards.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for the overall facilitation of the District's implementation of curriculum standards and assessments. Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Identify representatives from all stakeholder groups and invite them to participate in the implementation process.
2. Review the current (five (5) years or newer) Strategic Plan for the District and determine whether it includes the implementation of standards for all students. The Superintendent is responsible to amend the Strategic Plan as necessary.
3. Facilitate the development and/or review of an ongoing school improvement process for each school in the District, ensuring that all school improvement plans are aligned with the District's Strategic Plan and include the implementation of standards for students.
4. Facilitate Leadership Team training in the District.
5. Appoint a Standards and Assessment Committee.

6. Identify, by category, subpopulations of students and track the progress of the subpopulations to determine whether equal access to the curriculum exists.
7. Coordinate the District's implementation process to ensure the District complies with the State requirements.

STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Standards and Assessment Committee will be chaired by the Superintendent or designees and be composed of at least two (2) representatives from each of the stakeholder groups. The Committee's responsibilities include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Define the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholder groups.
2. Participate in Leadership Team training.
3. Establish District-wide goals for the implementation of the curriculum standards and assessments.
4. Develop a protocol for the discussion, decision-making, and conducting of committee and team meetings, as well as public forums.
5. Identify and establish Grade Level Teams for each elementary grade and Department Teams for each secondary content area.
6. Oversee the Grade Level and Department Teams to ensure that the process by which the curriculum standards and assessments are developed and implemented is systematic and consistent with the District-wide goals.
7. Develop various methods by which all stakeholders are given an opportunity to be educated regarding the curriculum standards and assessment implementation, and provide information and input to the committee, including, but not limited to, surveys, and public meetings. Establish procedures for communicating the stakeholders' input to the Board, administration, committee, and/or teams, as deemed appropriate.
8. Review the District's current curriculum coordination and articulation to determine whether it exists across all grade levels in the five (5) core content areas. Establish clear and operative mechanisms for systematic curricular change.
9. Develop a formative and summative assessment system to be applied on a District-wide basis by the Grade Level and Department Teams in assessing alignment of curriculum to the student's achievement of standards and benchmarks.

10. Make regular reports regarding the status of such implementation to the Board of Trustees.

GRADE LEVEL AND DEPARTMENT TEAMS

The Grade Level and Department Teams will be composed of certified personnel members currently teaching in the relevant grade level or department. The teams' responsibilities will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Define the roles and responsibilities of the team, and set timelines for accomplishment of goals; re-assess responsibilities and timelines, as appropriate.
2. Set a schedule of regular meeting dates, to occur weekly.
3. Review the grade level or department curriculum to determine whether there exists a consistency in the curricula in the five (5) core content areas (as appropriate), as it is written, taught, tested, graded, and reported.
4. Review the grade level or department curriculum, as written, and the curricular materials and resources, including technology, and determine whether they are consistent.
5. Collect data from a variety of sources, including test results, and analyze and interpret the data to determine the current status of the District's alignment of curriculum and assessment.
6. Outline specific and measurable objectives/strategies aligned to the applicable standards and benchmarks; implement such objectives/strategies; and develop a method for measuring the impact such objectives/strategies have on student learning over time.
7. Continually re-assess the data as appropriate during the implementation process and make appropriate adjustments in instruction to align the curriculum to the applicable standards and benchmarks.
8. Provide data regarding the impact of the implementation of curriculum standards and assessments on student learning, including test results and interpretation thereof to the Standards and Assessment Committee for dissemination to the stakeholders.

OPEN MEETING LAW

The meetings held by the Standards and Assessment Committee will comply with the open meeting law, pursuant to Idaho Code, Sections 67-2340 through 67-2347.

NOTICE OF POLICY

The District will post a copy of this Policy at St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 District Office and will publish it annually on the District's website. The Policy will also be available to stakeholders at the administrative office of each school.

ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUMS

The District will conduct a public forum during each spring semester to allow stakeholders an opportunity to receive information regarding the standards and assessments, and provide feedback to the Standards and Assessment Committee. The annual public forum may take place at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Notice of the annual public forum will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation on two (2) occasions at least one (1) week apart. Notice will also be posted at each school in the District and will be published in the District's newsletter immediately preceding the forum.

During the forum, reports will be given regarding the status of the District's planning and implementation of standards and assessment.

Stakeholders will be invited to make public comment regarding the matters addressed in the reports. The forum chairperson has the right to set reasonable restrictions on the presentation of public input, including, but not limited to, restricting the time period for such comment and accepting written comments. The information received via public input will be considered by Standards and Assessment Committee.

Policy Cross Reference:

Legal Reference:

Idaho Code §67-2340
Idaho Code §67-2347

Formation of Public Policy at Open Meetings
Violations
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Policy History:

Reviewed: 01/14/2002
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