

Descriptor Term:
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Descriptor Code:
3.3000

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81

Cross References:

The board recognizes that curriculum development must be an on-going process in order to continually address the changing needs and diversity of all students and to fulfill the educational goals of the board. The board further recognizes that while educators must be responsible for developing the curriculum, parents, other governmental agencies, businesses and members of the public have valuable insights in the type of curriculum needed.

The curriculum shall be developed to meet State and local board requirements, using the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and/or the Essential Standards as a foundation. The superintendent or his/her designee shall establish a curriculum committee to coordinate curriculum planning and ensure that the curriculum is aligned with the Standard Course of Study and/or Essential Standards, as applicable, and includes subject-area competencies for each grade level. The superintendent or his/her designee shall have the autonomy to determine the composition of said committee based on need. The committee shall seek input from parents, the community and experts in order to make fully informed decisions.

The principal is the instructional leader of the school and is responsible, with input from teachers, for ensuring that the curriculum meets the needs of the students of the school.

Any proposal (1) to expand subject areas or objectives, (2) to eliminate subject areas or objectives not required by the State, or (3) to waive the local board policies must be approved by the local board as part of the school improvement plan process.

If a school official wishes to modify the curriculum, he/she shall submit a proposal to the superintendent or his/her designee who is responsible for the forming and overseeing of central level curriculum committee. Unless the curriculum committee has significant concerns about the proposal, the committee may approve the changes, ensuring that curricular continuity is maintained. After being approved by the curriculum committee, the proposal must be submitted to the board for approval as part of the school improvement plan process if the modifications include (1) expanding or reducing the subject areas or objectives; (2) eliminating subject areas or objectives not required by the state; or (3) waiving local board policies. The curriculum committee shall ensure that the curriculum continues to align with the Standard Course of Study or Essential Standards.

The superintendent shall ensure that the methods for meeting curriculum objectives are regularly evaluated for their effectiveness.