

Greenwich Public Schools

Policy: The District shall offer a comprehensive educational program that leads to the achievement of the District Mission and Vision and also meets or exceeds the requirements of State and Federal legislation. This program will be delivered in a manner that assures consistency and comparability of services within schools and across the district, provides for equitable allocation of resources among schools, and is organized to address the learning and developmental needs of all students.

General Learning Programs. Learning programs will achieve the following learner goals:

- **Business Education** (elective): To develop in students, skills and knowledge in business or in other related areas and to develop job entry skills for those who plan careers in business upon graduation.
- **Family and Consumer Sciences:** Students will acquire knowledge and skills in consumer economics, fabric and food technologies, human growth and relationships, and careers, which will enable them to become more capable individuals and strengthen their roles, responsibilities, and interactions in their family, the workplace, and community.
- **Health:** All students will acquire knowledge and skills that will enable them to lead healthy lives; gaining practical information necessary to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, to prevent injury, disease and substance abuse in the context of understanding personal growth and development.
- **Mathematics:** To develop in students an understanding of the concepts of mathematics, skills to compute accurately, and the ability to combine the understanding of concepts and computational skills to solve word problems.
- **Media Services:** To support the regular and special learning programs and to enhance students' abilities to acquire and apply information through the use of educational media, including technology, and media centers.
- **Music:** All students will develop a strong background in music history, composition, and vocal and instrumental music to increase their enjoyment, critical analysis, creative expression, and cultural awareness of music.
- **Physical Education:** All students will develop physical skills in sports and recreational activities; acquire knowledge and appreciation of sports and physical activities; and demonstrate attributes of good sportsmanship.

- **Reading and Language Arts:** To develop in students the knowledge and skills in reading, writing, listening and public speaking to enable them to use language correctly and proficiently and to become critical and appreciative readers.
- **Science:** To develop in students the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to apply the scientific method of inquiry to an understanding of living organisms, of the physical world and of their relationships.
- **Social Studies:** To develop in students increased knowledge, comprehension and skill in the Social Studies (history, geography, civics, economics and culture) in order to prepare students to become responsible citizens in a democratic society.
- **Technology:** To develop in students an understanding and appreciation of our industrial-technological society; develop consumer knowledge, avocational interests and skill; develop skills and attitudes applicable to the world of work.
- **Theater Arts:** All students will develop knowledge and skills in acting, creating, directing, technical and other aspects of production, which will increase their enjoyment, critical expression, creative expression, and cultural awareness of the theater arts.
- **Visual Arts:** All students will experience the joy of creating art and gain an understanding and appreciation of art as a visual language that will continue through a lifetime of learning.
- **World Languages:** To develop in students listening, speaking, reading and writing skills which allow them to communicate in languages other than English and to appreciate and understand other cultures.

Other Learning Programs and Opportunities

- **Advanced Learning Program:** To teach students who demonstrate high performance capability significantly above grade level an accelerated and enriched curriculum in various subjects with their academic peers.
- **Continuing Education:** To meet the requirements of state law and to offer learning opportunities at reasonable cost to meet the diverse needs and interests of Greenwich residents and surrounding communities.

- **Magnet Schools:** To provide flexibility within the school system to alleviate potential overcrowding at individual schools, to achieve improved racial balances within schools, and to allow educational choices for families, the District may designate certain schools as magnet schools. These schools, which may draw from outside their own attendance district, may choose a theme or specialty as a means of enhancing student achievement and of attracting other students to attend. Magnet schools are expected to teach the Greenwich curriculum.
- **Student Activities:** To help students achieve personal growth and gain organizational experience and leadership skills in a wide range of co-curricular activities, including student government, student publications, and school and community service. Performance and presentation opportunities will be provided in art, dance, theater, and music.
- **Student Athletics:** To develop in students the skills, knowledge and responsible personal and social behaviors (e.g. good sportsmanship) necessary for participation in sports and activities on a continuum from casual involvement to the pursuit of physical fitness (intramural sports) to more advanced competition (interscholastic sports).
- **Summer School:** To enable students to accelerate, enrich, improve, or successfully complete learning activities and regular course work during the summer months.
- **Work Experience:** To teach through classroom instruction, skill development, and real-life applications the skills and behaviors required for success in the world of work.

Pupil Personnel Service Programs

- **Guidance:** To develop in all students the skills to attain personal and educational development by offering a variety of services with a major focus on school program planning; college and career counseling; individual and group counseling; and group guidance services addressing the needs of adolescents.

- **Occupational and Physical Therapy:** To develop in students with disabilities, the physical skills needed to access their educational programs by offering a variety of services with a major focus on individual and group physical and occupational therapy; consultation with classroom staff and parents; increased independence in school/functioning/participation/mobility; and when required, intensive supports in the identification and implementation of assistive technology supports.
- **Psychological Services:** To develop in students, particularly those students with disabilities the skills to attain emotional, intellectual and educational development by offering a variety of services with a major focus on individualized intellectual and behavioral evaluations; individual and group counseling; consultation with private therapists; and the development and implementation of positive behavior support plans.
- **School Social Work:** To develop in students, particularly students with disabilities, the skills to attain emotional, social and educational development by offering a variety of services with a major focus on connecting families with community services; individual and group counseling; and social skill development.
- **Special Education:** To teach students with disabilities the same body of knowledge presented in the regular education environment to the extent possible through modification and adaptation of the curriculum, instructional methodology, and materials. The District will offer a comprehensive continuum of special education placements to meet students' needs.
- **Speech and Language:** To develop in students, particularly those with hearing, speech and language disabilities, the skills to attain communicative, intellectual and educational development by offering a variety of services with a major focus on individual and group speech and language therapy; consultation with classroom staff and parents; and intensive supports in the use of augmentative communication systems.
- **Student Health Services** provide for
 - school-based monitoring of required health and immunization assessments
 - emergency care and promotion of healthy environments and behaviors
 - health care referrals

Curriculum. The District shall develop and implement an excellent, research-based curriculum. Curriculum objectives will be:

- consistent for all students across the District,
- content-rich and important to learn,
- rigorous,
- specific,
- measurable,
- aligned with state and national curriculum frameworks,
- sequenced within the year and from year to year,
- simply and clearly worded,
- made available to parents,
- adapted to the differing learning needs of students, and
- prioritized and selected giving consideration to instructional time constraints.

The purpose of improving curriculum is to improve student performance. Curriculum reviews of both General Learning Programs and Other Learning Programs and Opportunities will be periodic and systematic. The District Curriculum Committee charged with reviewing a curriculum will begin by analyzing curricular strengths and weaknesses as demonstrated by:

- student performance data relative to the Board-approved program goal,
- comparison of objectives to the above criteria and to the best curricula in the state and/or nation'
- curricular satisfaction surveys of parents, teachers, administrators, and, where applicable and appropriate, students, and
- input from community members and Board of Education

Based on this information, the District Committee will propose, and the Board will approve, specific areas targeted for improvement in student achievement, the measures by which curriculum success will be evaluated, and targets that will indicate whether improvement has been achieved. The Committee's curriculum review will then focus on the development of research-based means (e.g. revision of curriculum objectives, new textbook adoptions, course and program additions and/or deletions) to achieve improvement in the agreed-upon areas. The success of a revised curriculum will be determined based upon the achievements of the targets within a specified time frame.

In proposing curricular change, the District Committee shall clarify and describe

- how student performance is expected to improve, including targets and a time frame for assessing the effectiveness of curricular change,
- revised curriculum objectives,
- how the revised curriculum objectives conform to the Board's criteria (above),

- recommendations for textbooks and materials,
- staff development necessary for effective curriculum implementation, and
- cost of implementation and staff development.

All courses will have appropriate curriculum objectives.

The District Committee will present proposed course additions and deletions for Board approval. Proposals for course additions and deletions may be made outside the curriculum review process. The District Committee shall confirm that objectives of new courses meet the District’s criteria for learning objectives (see above) and address a clearly identified need for either improvement in student achievement or increased range of course offerings. The District Committee will also detail how and when course effectiveness will be assessed.

Rationale: A critical dimension of a quality educational program is the extent to which it offers courses, activities, experiences and instruction tailored to the particular needs of each student. The District recognizes its responsibility to educate all students to their highest academic potential.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-15 Towns to maintain schools
 - 10-15C Discrimination in public schools prohibited.
School attendance by five-year olds
 - 10-184 Duties of parents
 - 10-186 Duties of local and regional Boards of Education
 - 10-226a Pupils of racial minorities
 - 10-222
- Section 504, U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. @ 794

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