

## District Curriculum

The RSU 26 Board recognizes the important role of professional staff as the body that is legally charged with the responsibility of providing education to all children in our schools. Jointly the superintendent, principals, and staff are charged to ensure that all children will learn and demonstrate achievement of proficiency in the curricular areas identified in this policy. They shall further provide all students with equitable opportunities to access and demonstrate achievement of the curricular milestones.

The school system will provide programs and instructional approaches that support the variety of learning styles of its students. Through the basic instructional program, the schools will strive to provide for a wide range of individual differences in student abilities and interests. Students who have difficulty meeting the standards will be provided opportunities to obtain additional support or instruction.

The Board further believes that through the basic instructional program, students should develop a body of basic knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will lead to a successful adult life and informed participation in our democratic society. The educational program should provide students with the opportunity to develop their intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and appreciation for the arts that are important to lifelong learning, and the social and citizenship skills that are needed for work and community life.

The board further recognizes that curriculum sets a broad outline for instructional requirements while allowing individual teachers to do so in a flexible fashion that meets the needs of students in their classroom at a given time and utilizes unique strengths of individual teachers.

In accordance and in parallel with MRSA 20-A Ch 207 the Board defines curriculum to include the following three areas of learning:

1. Maine's system of Learning Results and Guiding Principles including:
  - a. life and career readiness
  - b. English language arts
  - c. health education and physical education
  - d. mathematics
  - e. technology, science and engineering
  - f. social studies
  - g. visual and performing arts
  - h. world languages
  - i.
2. Areas further prescribed by Maine state law including MRSA 20-A Ch 207 4706 and MRSA 20-A MRS §4502, sub-§5-C. These include:
  - a. American History and citizenship
  - b. African American studies
  - c. Maine studies
  - d. Maine Native American Studies
  - e. Genocide studies
  - f. K-5 instruction in child abuse prevention
3. Areas locally prescribed by the board based on community values and priorities including:
  - a. Continuous K-12 instruction in visual and performing arts
  - b. Continuous K-12 instruction in world languages
  - c. Comprehensive Sexuality Education
  - d. Suicide Prevention

- e. Social Emotional Learning and Work Habits
- f. Digital literacy and citizenship

The Curriculum Committee shall be a Working Group under board policy BDE advising the board which includes appointed board members and teacher, staff, and administration from each school that will work collaboratively to change and periodically review and update the curriculum as needed, and shall bring substantial changes to the curriculum to the board for approval.

The basic instructional program shall meet requirements established by Maine law and Department of Education regulations. The instructional program shall be implemented through a written curriculum aligned with the system of Learning Results and this policy and designed to provide appropriate uniformity of content within grade levels and continuity and connectivity of content across grade levels.

Legal Reference:       20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1001(6), 6209  
                              20-A MRS §4502, sub-§5-C  
                              Ch. 125 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)  
                              Ch. 127 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference:       AD - Educational Philosophy/Mission  
                              ADF - School District Commitment to Learning Results  
                              IGA - Curriculum Development and Adoption  
                              ILA – Student Assessment/Local Assessment System

Adopted:                March 22, 2022  
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