

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) recognizes its responsibility for the improvement and growth of its educational program. To this end, the curriculum shall be evaluated, adapted and developed on a continuing basis and in accordance with a plan for curriculum growth. All formal curriculums implemented at WSD shall be consistent with the School's current Strategic Plan and approved by the Board of Trustees.

The superintendent shall establish regulations for curriculum development which provide for involvement of community representatives and staff members at appropriate times, the annual review of selected areas on a cyclical basis, and any suggested changes that should be made as a result of the curriculum study. From time to time members of the Board may participate in a developmental effort, primarily as a means of enhancing communications between those that have the primary responsibility for developing curriculum and the Board which has the responsibility for final approval.

All new courses or major modifications to existing courses must be approved by the superintendent prior to implementation.

Criteria for Selection of Instructional Material

Selection of textbooks and other primary instructional material shall be a part of the curriculum development effort in order to assure that materials which are consistent with and promote achievement of the intended instructional outcomes are available to implement the curriculum. Every effort shall be made to show the research basis that links student learning outcomes to both the curriculum framework and the primary instructional materials that will be used to implement that curriculum.

The selection of both textbooks, the primary instructional materials intended to implement the curriculum, and supplementary instructional materials chosen by individual staff members to enhance the curriculum shall demonstrate the qualities listed below. Staff shall rely on reason and professional judgment, and research-based data in the selection of materials of high quality materials that comprise a comprehensive collection appropriate for the instructional program and consistent with the current Strategic Plan. Instructional materials selected shall include, but are not limited to, those which:

- Enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied instructional needs, abilities, interests, and maturity levels of the students served.
- Stimulate student growth in conceptual thinking, factual knowledge, physical fitness, and literary and ethical standards.
- Provide sufficient variety so as to present opposing views of controversial issues in order that students may develop the skills of critical analysis and informed decision making.
- Contribute to the development of an understanding of the ethnic, cultural, and occupational diversity of American life.
- Present objectively the concerns of and build upon the contributions, current and historical, of both sexes, and members of religious, ethnic and cultural groups. WSD recognizes that under certain conditions biased materials may represent appropriate resources in presenting contrasting and differing points of view.
- Provide models which may be used as a vehicle for the development of self-respect, ethnic pride and appreciation of cultural differences, based on respect for the worth, dignity, and personal values of every individual.

Any requests from organizations which provide instructional materials and/or aids must be examined to insure that such materials meet the criteria above. The superintendent or designee shall review for accuracy and educational value to the total school program all materials or activities proposed by outside sources for student or staff use.

Adoption Date: 02/10/05