

CHAPTER 4.00 – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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- 1) The District curriculum shall be determined by:
 - a) Students' needs as determined by studies, data analysis and surveys;
 - b) Continuous evaluation of curriculum effectiveness in meeting students' needs; and,
 - c) Florida Statutes, State Board of Education Rules, and the School Board.
- 2) The Superintendent may appoint such committees as may be necessary to assist in determining the educational needs of students in the District.
- 3) The Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff member who is responsible for the development and coordination of the total curriculum of the District.
- 4) The District shall provide instruction based on the Sunshine State Standards and as required by statute.
- 5) The program of instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a) Elementary School Curriculum – Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking), Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Health, Physical Education, Music, Art, Technology, Critical Thinking Skills, and such other disciplines that may be considered necessary to a comprehensive elementary school program. Instruction in the use of the Media Center and counseling services shall be provided.
 - b) Middle School Curriculum – Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Music, Art, Health, Physical Education, Exploratory Career Education, and Critical Thinking Skills. Activities which offer desirable experiences on consumer education, the arts, athletics, and student government may be promoted. Instruction in the use of the Media Center counseling services shall be provided.
 - c) High School Curriculum – Courses that meet the needs of all students shall be offered at levels which will challenge each student to perform in accordance with the student's Customized Learning Path (CLP). Secondary schools shall

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offer courses in all required areas and shall provide as many elective courses as possible based on student need and available resources.

- i) Media Center and counseling services shall be provided.
 - ii) A program of student government, student publications, the arts, social activities, and athletics shall be provided for the development of well-rounded citizens.
- d) Elementary and Middle School Physical Education Program – The comprehensive Physical Education Program for elementary and middle grades in the St. Johns County School District shall include the following program outcomes:
- i) Instruction in a variety of motor skills and physical education activities designed to enhance the physical, mental, and social or emotional development of every student.
 - ii) Development of, and instruction in, cognitive concepts about motor skills and physical fitness that support a life-long healthy lifestyle.
 - iii) Opportunities to develop positive social and cooperative skills through physical activity participation.
 - iv) Instruction in healthy eating habits and good nutrition.
 - v) Use of physical fitness assessment instrument(s) to help students understand, improve, and maintain their physical well-being.
- e) High School Physical Education Program – Students in Grades 9-12 shall participate in a Physical Education Program that stresses physical fitness and encourages healthy, active lifestyles. Physical Education shall consist of physical activities of at least a moderate intensity level and for a time period sufficient to provide a significant health benefit to students, subject to the differing capabilities of students.

The comprehensive program shall include the following program outcomes:

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- i) Development of, and instruction in, cognitive concepts about maintaining appropriate levels of cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition necessary for a healthy lifestyle.
 - ii) Instruction in application of fitness assessment results to guide changes in a personal program of physical activity.
 - iii) Instruction in utilization of technology to assess, enhance and maintain fitness and skills.
 - iv) Instruction in cognitive concepts relating the role of physical activity in the prevention of disease.
 - v) Instruction in cognitive concepts relating the role of physical activity as a potential vehicle for social interaction and cooperative relations within school and family.
- 6) The Superintendent shall provide course outlines, Florida Sunshine State Standards, grade level expectations, and other guidelines for materials to be utilized at the various grade levels.
 - 7) The Superintendent shall make an annual report to the School Board giving the status of the instructional program in meeting the District's educational goals and identifying objectives and recommendations for improving the curriculum.
 - 8) The responsibility and right of teacher to present information of a controversial nature is hereby recognized. The teacher shall not present controversial material or issues which are not directly or closely related to the subject area being taught. In presenting controversial materials on an issue, the teacher shall present all sides of the question without bias or prejudice and shall permit each student to arrive at the student's own conclusions.
 - 9) As provided in Florida Statutes, a course description shall be presented for School Board approval before any course or unit in the objective study of the Bible or a comparative study of religion, is initiated in any school. The description shall detail the purpose of the course, the materials to be used, grade location, length of the

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course, and credit value. No teacher shall present any material which ridicules any religious sect, belief, or faith.

- 10) Prior to initiating any course or unit of instruction in human growth and development, the course outline and description shall be approved by the School Board. This rule does not preclude the teaching of puberty or personal cleanliness in health and physical education classes or in the elementary grades, or the teaching of matters relating to sex education as provided in state-adopted textbooks, or information relating to sex education as required in courses using duly-adopted textbooks and materials where sex education is an incidental part of the course.
- 11) Students shall be taught the dangers and consequences of sexually transmitted diseases. The manner, scope, and levels at which this information will be presented shall be determined by the Superintendent in consultation with instructional supervisors and principals. Prior to initiating any such unit of instruction, the proposed program, the materials to be used, and other essential information shall be approved by the School Board. When any questionable information is to be viewed by mixed groups, the sexes may be separated for presentation of materials.
- 12) Courses with Human Sexuality, HIV/AIDS, and other STD content, shall be developed and taught utilizing the most current local guidelines approved by the School Board. Such courses shall be “abstinence only.”
- 13) Students at all appropriate levels will be given instruction regarding the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse.
- 14) When dealing with political issues, all positions will be fairly presented. All presentations of political issues shall be presented on a non-artisan basis.
- 15) All instructional materials, including teacher’s manuals, audio-visual materials, or other supplementary instructional material, shall be available for inspection by parents and the general public.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41; 1001.43, F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 1001.43; 1003.42; 1003.43; 1003.45;
1006.28; 1006.29; 1008.25; 1010.305, F.S.

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE: 6A-1.0941; 6A-1.09412; 6A-1.09414

**HISTORY: ADOPTED:
REVISION DATE(S): 11/16/2004
FORMERLY: IGA; INB**

