

Policy 6141: Curriculum Development And Evaluation

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/01/1988 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/01/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 08/01/2026

The Governing Board desires to provide a research-based, sequential curriculum which promotes high levels of student achievement and emphasizes the development of basic skills, problem solving, and decision making. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent or designee, the Board shall adopt a written district curriculum which describes, for each subject area and grade level, the content objectives which are to be taught in all district schools.

The district's curriculum shall be aligned with the district's vision and goals for student learning, Board policies, academic content standards, state curriculum frameworks, state and district assessments, graduation requirements, school and district improvement plans, local control and accountability plan, and, when necessary, related legal requirements.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process for curriculum development, selection, and/or adaptation which utilizes the professional expertise of teachers, principals, and district administrators representing various grade levels, disciplines, special programs, and categories of students as appropriate. Additionally, the process may provide opportunities for input from students, parents/guardians, representatives of local businesses and postsecondary institutions, and other community members.

CSBA NOTE: Since instructional materials are often an important component of the curriculum, the process of adopting instructional materials should be coordinated with the curriculum review and adoption process. For more information regarding the adoption of instructional materials, see BP/AR 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials.

The California Department of Education's, "Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoptions," provides guidance for districts when identifying, reviewing, piloting, and adopting instructional materials in all content areas, including links to current legislation, sample timelines, support for student groups, and implementation considerations. Additional information regarding the adoption of instructional materials can be found in CSBA's, "Instructional Materials Adoptions: State and local governing board processes, roles, and responsibilities," "Instructional Materials Adoption: Local governing board responsibilities," and "State Roles, Responsibilities, and Process for Instructional Materials Adoption," and the California Attorney General's, "Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books." For guidance regarding the adoption and implementation of mathematics instructional materials that meet the needs of English learners, see CSBA's "Defining High-Quality Instructional Materials for Mathematics to Meet the Needs of English Learners."

The curriculum development and evaluation process shall be coordinated with the process specified in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials, for selecting and evaluating instructional materials for use in district schools.

When presenting a recommended curriculum for adoption, the Superintendent or designee shall provide research, data, or other evidence demonstrating the proven effectiveness of the proposed curriculum. Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall present information about the resources that would be necessary to successfully implement the curriculum and describe any modifications or supplementary services that would be needed to make the curriculum accessible to all students.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 244 and 51501, the Governing Board is prohibited from adopting or approving the use of any textbook or other instructional material, or as amended by AB 715 (Ch. 428, Statutes of 2025), any staff development material, if such use would reflect adversely upon persons based on race or ethnicity, gender, religion, or other characteristics specified in Education Code 220 or would subject a student to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Education Code 220. Additionally, Education Code 51501, as amended by AB 715, requires that instructional materials adopted by the Board be factually accurate and meet other requirements as specified below.

Any instructional materials recommended by the Superintendent or designee to implement the curriculum shall be factually accurate and reflect the adopted curriculum and standards reflected in Education Code 60200, and be consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility, rather than advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship. (Education Code 51501)

Additionally, any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library, shall not be recommended by the Superintendent or designee to implement the curriculum if the use would subject a student to unlawful

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The district's curriculum shall be aligned with the district's vision and goals for student learning, Board policies, academic content standards, state curriculum frameworks, state and district assessments, graduation requirements, school and district improvement plans, and, when necessary, related legal requirements.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process for curriculum development, selection, and/or adaptation which utilizes the professional expertise of teachers, principals, and district administrators representing various grade levels, disciplines, special programs, and categories of students as appropriate. The process also may provide opportunities for input from students, parents/guardians, representatives of local businesses and postsecondary institutions, and other community members.

The selection and evaluation of instructional materials shall be coordinated with the curriculum development and evaluation process.

When presenting a recommended curriculum for adoption, the Superintendent or designee shall provide research, data, or other evidence demonstrating the proven effectiveness of the proposed curriculum. He/she also shall present information about the resources that would be necessary to successfully implement the curriculum and describe any modifications or supplementary services that would be needed to make the curriculum accessible to all students.

discrimination as specified in Education Code 220. (Education Code 244)

In addition, any textbook or other instructional material shall not be recommended by the Superintendent or designee to implement the curriculum if it contains any matter reflecting adversely upon persons on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation, or because of a characteristic listed in Education Code 220, or that violates Education Code 243, 244, 51500, or 60044. (Education Code 51501)

CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Education Code 52376 requires districts with high schools to compare their career technical education programs with state model curriculum standards at least every three years. For more information regarding career technical education, see AR 6178 - Career Technical Education. At their discretion, districts may choose to establish a schedule of regular reviews in other subject areas to ensure continued alignment of district curricula with state standards.

The Board shall establish a review cycle for regularly evaluating the district's curriculum in order to ensure continued alignment with state and district goals for student achievement. At a minimum, these reviews shall be conducted whenever the State Board of Education adopts new or revised content standards or the curriculum framework for a particular subject or when new law requires a change or addition to the curriculum.

Additionally, the Board may require a review of the curriculum in one or more subject areas as needed in response to student assessment results; feedback from teachers, administrators, or parent/guardians; new research on program effectiveness; or changing student needs.
