

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The curriculum of the Schroon Lake Central School District shall provide a strong basic program, with additional provisions for adaptations to meet the needs of every student. In order to achieve its annual instructional goals, the Board of Education supports a collaborative approach to district curriculum development. Such an approach must recognize the interrelation of a "core" curriculum and effective instructional processes, as well as interdisciplinary applications and articulation of programs among grade levels.

A "core" curriculum will include basic content area knowledge and related skills, with the realization that such information needs continuous updating. Curricula will also be designed to encourage transferrable concepts/skills, including critical thinking skills. The Board is committed to providing district students and staff with appropriate instructional materials to implement curricula.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for leading efforts in the area of curriculum development for the school system. He shall have the authority to set pilot programs, investigate and recommend new instructional techniques and materials and evaluate both current and recently instituted courses of study.

Parents and members of the community are also encouraged to provide feedback on district curricula and instruction. The Superintendent will consult with teachers, students and the community to promote a continuing review and upgrading of such curriculum. To this end, the Superintendent shall periodically invite community input which shall be considered in evaluating and revising district curricula.

Curriculum changes shall consider the results of state and local testing/classroom evaluations, reflect at a minimum the requirements of the state, and address further needs of the community and student population. The Board expects administrators and staff to work together in evaluating the educational program and recommending changes or additions in courses, programs, instructional methodology, and/or staff development activities which are necessary to implement such changes and/or additions.

New courses of study, including pilot programs, as well as significant modifications of established courses of study shall require the prior approval of the Board. If a new course of study is expected to be used for Regents credit state approval of the course of study is also necessary.

The Board will receive regular reports on curriculum-related matters, such as instructional programs; the work of curriculum committees, and periodic evaluation of specific curriculum areas. The Superintendent will also be responsible for implementing curriculum studies, including pilot projects, as authorized by the Board.

Upon the adoption of this policy, the Superintendent shall prepare and deliver to the Board, an outline of the current curriculum of the district including the titles of the various courses of study currently being offered, indicating which are required by law. He shall also assemble and maintain, at the district office, at least one copy of each course outline in current use.