

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6110 **(Regulations 6110)**

Curriculum Services

Curriculum Development

The Board of Education recognizes the need and value of a systematic and on-going program of curriculum review. The Board encourages and supports the professional staff in its efforts to identify and review new curricular ideas, develop and improve existing programs and evaluate all instructional programs.

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to continuously carry out the curriculum development and implementation process. As used in this policy, curriculum is the process, attitudes, skills, and knowledge that are taught and learned at the appropriate levels in District schools.

However, the Board of Education is responsible for the approval and adoption of curriculum used by the District.

Similarly, the Board may adopt the District's own education standards, in addition to those already adopted by the state, provided the additional standards are in the public domain and do not conflict with the standard adopted by the State Board of Education.

Rev. 9/2014

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6111

Curriculum Services

Curriculum Planning

The plan for curriculum development will address all requirements indicated by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993 including the Show-Me-Standards: Section 160.514, RSMo and Code of State Regulations, 5 CSR 50-375.100. These standards include performance (process) standards and knowledge (content) standards. All curriculum developed by the District shall satisfy moving District students toward achieving Missouri's definition of what students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate from high school.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6112

Curriculum Services

Curriculum Research

The Board of Education directs that all curriculum developed and/or adopted by the District shall be based on current research relative to how students best learn. Resources to be consulted include, but are not limited to, local or area universities, State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education services, Association for Supervision of Curriculum Development and similar national, state and/or local curriculum organizations. Every effort should be made to insure that District curriculum is current and based on sound educational research findings.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6113

Curriculum Services

Curriculum Design

The design of District curriculum shall follow curriculum frameworks offered by the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education which are intended to provide assistance in aligning local curriculum with the Show-Me-Standards.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6114

Curriculum Services

Curriculum Adoption

All curriculum developed by District staff shall be formally presented to the Board of Education for official approval before classroom implementation.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6115

Curriculum Services

State Mandated Curriculum: American History

As provided by state law, the District's curriculum will include (the following subject matter components) American History components.

American History courses at all levels will include instruction in the details and events of the racial equality movement that have resulted in major changes in the laws and attitudes of the United States and of Missouri. Instruction will be sequenced in the proper time line.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6116

Curriculum Services

State Mandated Curriculum: Human Sexuality

Human Sexuality Instruction

Any course materials and instruction related to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases will be medically and factually accurate and will:

1. Provide instruction on human sexuality and in HIV prevention that is age appropriate;
2. Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior, in relation to all sexual activity for unmarried students;
3. Advise students that teenage sexual activity places them at a higher risk of dropping out of school;
4. Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious, possible health hazards of sexual activity;
5. Provide students with the latest medical information regarding exposure to human immunodeficiency virus, AIDS, human papilloma virus, hepatitis, and other sexually transmitted diseases;
6. Present students with the latest factually accurate information regarding the possible side effects and benefits of all forms of contraception;
7. Include discussions of the possible emotional and psychological consequences of preadolescent and adolescent sexual activity. Such discussions will include the consequences of adolescent pregnancy, the advantages of adoption, the adoption of special needs children, and the process involved in making an adoption plan;
8. Teach skills of conflict management, personal responsibility, and positive self-esteem. Instructions will include the prohibition against making unwanted sexual advances and methods to resist sexual advances and other negative peer pressures;
9. Advise students of the laws relating to their financial responsibility to children born out of wedlock and the criminal sanctions for statutory rape;
10. Not encourage or promote sexual activity;

11. Not distribute or aid in the distribution of legally obscene materials to minors on school property;
12. Teach students about the dangers of sexual predators, including on-line predators;
13. Teach students how to behave responsibly and remain safe on the Internet;
14. Teach students the importance of having open communications with responsible adults;
15. Teach students how to report an inappropriate activity to a responsible adult, and where appropriate, to law enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigations or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline;
16. Teach students about the consequences, both personal and legal, of inappropriate text messaging, including texting among friends.
17. Teach students about sexual harassment defined as uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to, conduct of a person in authority towards a subordinate.
18. Teach students about sexual violence defined as causing or attempting to cause another person to involuntarily engage in any sexual act by means of force, threat of force, duress or without the person's consent.
19. Advise students that in the context of sexual activity consent means a freely given agreement to engage in specific acts by a competent person. Consent is not given when:
 - a. A person does not verbally or physically consent; or
 - b. Submission to an act is the result of force, threat of force, or the placement of another in fear; or
 - c. A previous or current dating, social, or sexual relationship in and of itself; or
 - d. A person chooses to dress in any particular manner; or
 - e. A person is unable to make informed decisions because of the influence of alcohol or the influence of controlled substances.

An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent.

The parents/guardians of each student will be advised of:

1. The content of the District's human sexuality instruction;

2. Their right to remove their student from any part of the District's human sexuality instruction.

The District's human sexuality curriculum will be available for public examination prior to its use in actual instruction. Consideration will be given to separating students by gender for human sexuality instruction.

The District will not permit any individual or organization that provides abortion services, to offer, sponsor, or furnish course materials related to human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6117

Curriculum Services

Veteran's Day Commemoration

Each District school will devote at least one class period in preparation for Veteran's Day in order to convey the meaning and significance of Veteran's Day. In addition, the Board may annually designate Veteran's Day as a school holiday.

New 9/2014

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6118

Curriculum Services

State Mandated Curriculum-Mental Health Awareness

District students will receive instruction on mental health awareness at some point during grades 9-12. Students with disabilities will participate to the extent appropriate and to the extent consistent with the IDEA and Section 504 provisions of the Mental Health Awareness Program.

Mental health awareness will be included in the District's health or physical education curriculum. Such instruction shall be consistent with the Mental Health Awareness Program developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

NEW 12/22

Curriculum Services**Computer Science Class**

Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, the District will provide at least one computer science course as an in-person course or as a virtual or distance course option. The computer science courses offered by the District are:

1. Defined as a high-quality course by DESE.
2. Meets or exceeds the computer performance standards developed and adopted by DESE.
3. Offered in each school's course catalog.

A successfully completed computer science class will be counted toward state graduation requirements as the equivalent to one science class or one practical arts credit for purposes of satisfying any admission requirements of any public higher education institution in this state.

Reporting

Annually by June 30, the District will submit a report to DESE focused on the District's computer science program for the current school year.

The District's annual report will contain the names and course codes for computer science classes with a course description and performance standards for computer science classes offered. In addition, the computer science class report will provide the number and demographic percentage of students in each computer class.

The demographic data provided for each such course will include the member of each group as follows:

1. Sex
2. Race and ethnicity
3. Identified special education students
4. English Language Learner students
5. Eligibility for free or reduced meals
6. Grade level

If a category contains 1 to 5 students, the number shall be replaced by a symbol. The number of computer science instructors at each school by:

1. Certification
2. Sex
3. Race and ethnicity
4. Highest academic degree

NEW 12/22

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6120

Curriculum Services

Curriculum Guides

Written curriculum guides shall be developed and Board approved for implementation in the following areas K–12:

1. English/Language Arts
2. Social Studies
3. Mathematics
4. Science
5. Foreign Language
6. Health, Safety and Physical Education
7. Fine Arts (Visual and Performing Arts)
8. Practical Arts and Vocational Programs (Business, Industrial Technology, and Family and Consumer Science)
9. Counseling and Guidance
10. Computer Science / Technology

Health education is to include drug education and AIDS education as mandated by federal legislation.

Curriculum Guides at all levels will include a philosophy statement and sections defining behavioral goals and objectives reflecting content standards, teaching resources, and evaluation criteria reflecting performance standards. Each Guide will include strategies for interdisciplinary studies and cooperative classroom implementation.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6130

Curriculum Services

Drug Education

The Board of Education understands that parents/guardians, educators, students and other community members are seriously concerned about the adverse effects of drug abuse on the individual and society. Furthermore, the Board believes that effective drug education programs require both the acquisition of knowledge and the development of positive personal values. Both the school and other community agencies must share in the development and conduct of programs to alleviate the problems of drug abuse.

Therefore, the School District will abide by the following:

1. Be concerned with the education of all areas of drug and alcohol abuse.
2. Establish and maintain a realistic, meaningful drug and alcohol education program that will be incorporated in the total educational program.
3. Establish and maintain an ongoing in-service drug and alcohol education program for school personnel.
4. Cooperate with government and private agencies offering services related to drug and alcohol problems.
5. Encourage and support activities that will develop a positive peer influence in the area of drugs and alcohol.
6. Create a climate whereby students may seek and receive counseling about drugs and alcohol and related problems without fear of reprisal.
7. Follow federal mandates concerning drug and alcohol education.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6140

Curriculum Services

Services for Students with Disabilities

The District does not utilize a separate curriculum for students with disabilities. It is the policy of the District to implement a program of regular and special education based on the individualized needs of each disabled student.

The District will provide special education and/or related services to students with disabilities in accordance with applicable law, including the IDEA, its implementing regulations, the Missouri State Plan for Part B of the IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, its implementing regulations, and Title II of the American with Disabilities Act.

For students identified as disabled under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), each student's IEP team will develop an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) that will address how that student's disability affects that student's involvement and progress in the general curriculum. Each student's IEP team also will, in accordance with IDEA, create an IEP that includes a statement of the special education, related services and supplementary aides and services that will enable the student to be involved in and make progress in the general educational curriculum.

Rev. 10/2013

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6145 **(Regulation 6145)**

Curriculum Services

Service Animals and Professional Therapy Dogs in Schools

This policy governs the presence of service animals in the District's buildings, on school property (including school buses), and at school activities. The Board of Education adopts this policy to ensure that individuals with disabilities are permitted to participate in and benefit from District programs, activities and services, and to ensure that the District does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

Students and/or adults with disabilities may be accompanied by a "service animal" as defined by federal and Missouri law on school property, in school buildings, and at school functions as permitted by law and subject to the conditions of this Policy.

Service Animals

Under federal law, a "service animal" means "any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability." Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition (See, however, provisions on miniature horses below). The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

Under Missouri law, the term "service dog" is defined as a dog that is being or has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Service dogs include but are not limited to: guide dogs, hearing dogs, medical alert or response dogs, mobility dogs, and mental health service dogs or psychiatric service dogs.

An emotional support dog, whose purpose is to provide comfort or companionship does not meet the definition of a service dog under Missouri or federal law.

The District will permit the use of a miniature horse as a service animal if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

In determining whether to permit the use of a miniature horse as a service animal, the District will consider: (1) the type, size and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features; (2) whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse; (3) whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and (4) whether the miniature horse's

presence compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for the safe operation of the facility. All additional requirements outlined in this Policy which apply to service animals, shall apply to miniature horses.

If an individual with a disability requests to use a service animal in a District building, on District property, in a District vehicle or at a District function, the District will not ask about the nature or extent of the person's disability. However, the District may make the following inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal: (1) whether the animal is required because of a disability; and (2) what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. The District may not make these inquiries when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability.

The District may request but will not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal.

Misrepresentation of Service Dogs

In accordance with Missouri law, a person knowingly misrepresenting a dog as a service dog for the purpose of receiving accommodations of the Americans with Disabilities Act will be guilty of a class C misdemeanor and shall be civilly liable for damages resulting from such misrepresentation.

Professional Therapy Dogs

An animal that is used to provide a supportive or therapeutic service for a student does not meet the definition of a "Service Animal" which is permitted for use by qualified individuals with disabilities consistent with this Policy. However, the District may, at its discretion, permit the use of such dogs that have been individually trained and certified to work with staff to provide certain types of support for its students.

Such dogs are not for the personal use of District students or employees and will be utilized at the discretion of District administration and counselors for their intended purpose.

REV. 1/18

REV. 11/2020

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6150

Curriculum Services

Curriculum for At-Risk Students

The Board of Education directs that curriculum be developed to meet the needs of students at risk of failure. This curriculum is to include strategies infused in all areas of regular education, K - 12, to address the special needs of students at-risk.

As provided by state and federal guidelines and funds, the Board directs the administration to utilize funds from ESEA, Title I and state programs for alternative education, among others, as resources for curriculum development for students at-risk.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6160

Curriculum Services

Gifted Education Program

The Board of Education directs that curriculum be developed to meet the needs of students who have been identified as gifted by multi-criteria assessment developed by professional staff. This curriculum is to include strategies infused in all areas of regular education, K- 12, as well as specific curriculum designed to enrich the regular curriculum in order to meet the challenge of educating the gifted student.

The District's Gifted Education Program will allow for grade acceleration for students who demonstrate:

- Advanced performance or potential for advanced performance; and
- The social and emotional readiness for acceleration.

The acceleration opportunity will apply to subject acceleration and/or whole grade acceleration.

Review of Application Denial

Parents/guardians may request a review of the District's determination that their student did not qualify to receive services through the District's Gifted Education Program. The review process is as follows:

- Review of the decision by their building principal;
- Review by the central office administrator who is responsible for supervision of the Gifted Program;
- A written submission to the Board of Education stating the parents'/guardians' basis for an appeal.
- The Board may deny the written submission or may meet with the parents/guardians at a Board meeting to consider the appeal. The Board's decision is final.

While appeal is permitted for denial of entry into the Gifted Program, no such appeal is available for acceleration decisions.

The District and District employees are immune from liability from any and all acts or omissions relating to the decision that a child did not qualify to receive services through the District's Gifted Education Program.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6170

Curriculum Services

Early Childhood Education

The critical importance of the early years in determining the educational development of children is recognized by the Board.

The Board directs that a written curriculum will direct the services offered to pre-kindergarten age children.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6180 **(Form 6180)**

Curriculum Services

English Learner (EL)

The Board of Education is committed to identifying and assessing the educational needs of students whose native or home language is other than English. Once identified, the District will provide appropriate programs to address the needs of these students. Students entitled to considerations under this policy include:

1. Language Minority (LM) - students who come from a background where English is not the student's first language, or where the primary language of the home is not English or both.
2. Limited English Proficient (LEP) - Students whose English language skills are insufficient to lead to success in an English-only classroom.

The District will also take steps to ensure to the maximum extent practicable that the interests of EL students are included in the development and implementation of District programs and services that are offered by the District to and for its student body.

School personnel enrolling EL students are trained in the process of identifying, assessing, and providing services to these students.

To ensure that parents/guardians are properly notified of the EL program, all new and enrolling students are to be given the Language Use Survey (Form 6180). The form shall be completed by the parents/guardians if they feel their child may be in need of such services.

Where the District has or may have in the future a low number of EL students, the District may contract with a neighboring district for services until a qualified EL teacher is employed. However, if the District serves twenty (20) or more EL students, the District will employ a full-time certified EL teacher.

The Board designates the Director of Title Services to serve as the District's EL Implementor.

REV. 3/9/21

REV. 6/2021

REV. 6/11

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6190
(Regulation 6190)

Student Academic Achievement

Virtual Instruction Program - Less than Full-Time Equivalent

The District will participate in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (“Program”). The Program offers District students the opportunity to enroll in virtual school courses in a variety of grade level and content areas from Kindergarten through grade 12. The District may elect to offer specific courses as part of the program.

Rev. 1/19
REV. 12/22

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6191
(Regulation 6191)

Curriculum Services

Virtual Education – Full-Time Equivalent

District students will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual education program as a full-time student as provided in the Policy/Regulation. For purposes of this policy, a full-time student is a student enrolled in six (6) credits per regular term.

The District will, in good faith, collaborate with the parents/guardians of full-time virtual students, the virtual program and the Host District. Designated “Host Districts” for full-time virtual students will be responsible for enrolling, monitoring, reporting, disenrolling, if required, full-time virtual District students. The District will not play any significant role in these decisions.

NEW 12/22

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6210

Instruction

Instructional Time

The primary focus of the District's staff and programs is maximization of student learning. While learning occurs as a result of extracurricular activities and as a result of non-structured interaction between students and between students and staff, most learning occurs as a result of planned learning activities during class time. Therefore, every effort will be made to minimize disruptions in instructional time. Public address announcements and pull out programs will be planned to avoid loss of critical instruction time.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6215 **(Regulation 6215)**

Instruction

Reading Success

The District is committed to taking substantial procedures for maximizing student success in reading. As set forth in the accompanying Regulation 6215, these procedures include but are not limited to reading proficiency/readiness screening; provision of intensive reading instruction particularly to students exhibiting a substantial reading deficiency and informing and involving parents/guardians in improvement of student reading proficiency/readiness.

NEW 12/22

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6220

Instruction

Student Teachers, Interns and Fellows

The Board of Education authorizes contractual arrangements to be made for the acceptance for training of student teachers from regularly accredited colleges and universities to the extent that the training of these student teachers will both enhance educational opportunities of the classroom students as well as provide a training opportunity for the student teacher.

Guidelines will be prepared for the direction of staff members in handling the student teacher program. These guidelines will also be written to provide a definite program for the improvement of the student teacher while assigned to this School District.

The Board of Education supports and promotes the continued development and expansion of partnerships with institutions of higher education that focus on improving the quality of teacher training and education. Top priority will be given in the placement of student teachers, interns and fellows in district designated partnership schools.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6230
(Regulation 6230)

Instruction

Textbook Selection and Adoption

The Superintendent/designee will appoint a committee of teachers and administrators to review textbook offerings in specific instructional areas. The committee will submit its report together with its recommendation to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will consider the committee's report and inform the Board of his / her final decision.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6231
(Regulation 6231)

Instruction

Textbook Usage - Students

Textbooks on which assignments are based are to be available to each student. Under the guidance of the teacher and the rules for a particular class, a textbook should be available for the student to take home overnight or over a weekend so that the student may prepare homework assignments and so that the parents/guardians may see the textbook.

Textbooks and library books are to be treated with respect by the students, used wisely, cared for, and returned in good condition when the assignment or course is concluded. The student to whom a textbook or library book is issued will be held responsible for its return in good condition. A reasonable system of fines, penalties, or methods of repayment for a fair value of the book is to be developed.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6240

Instruction

Instructional Materials

The Superintendent/designee shall formulate administrative regulations as necessary to be included in faculty handbooks relative to the purchase and appropriateness of instructional materials. Guidelines relative to guest lecturers or presentations shall be included.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6241
(Regulation 6241)
(Form 6241)

Instruction

Challenged Materials

The Board has the ultimate responsibility for establishing the curriculum and for purchasing instructional and/or media materials to be used in the District. While the Board recognizes the right of students to free access to the many different types of books and instructional materials, the Board also recognizes the right of teachers and administrators to select books and other materials in accordance with current trends in education and the established curriculum.

It is therefore the policy of the Board to require that books and other instructional materials shall be chosen for values of educational interest and the enlightenment of all students in the community. Instructional materials shall not be excluded on the basis of the writer's racial, nationalistic, political, or religious views. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning international, national and local problems and issues of our times. Books, or other instructional or media materials of sound factual authority, shall not be prescribed, nor removed from library shelves or classrooms on the basis of partisan or doctrinal approval or disapproval. The Board will strive to provide stimulating, effective materials that will be appropriate to the community's values and the students' abilities and maturity levels.

Instructional or media materials used in the District's educational program consist of various types of print and nonprint materials. Despite the care taken to select those materials deemed to be educationally useful, occasional objections to the selection of instructional materials may be made by the public.

If a challenge is made, it should be properly channeled through guidelines and procedures established by the Board.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6242

Instruction

Religious or Controversial Issues

Religious education is the responsibility of the home and church. The espousal of any particular religious denomination or faith is strictly forbidden; however, teachers may teach about religion with information being presented at an appropriate maturity level for students.

No partisan political views may be espoused by any teacher or staff member; however, teachers may teach about political parties and politics as related to the governmental systems of the nation or world.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6243

Instruction

Copyrighted Materials

It is the intent of the Board to delineate, enforce, and abide by the provisions of current copyright laws and regulations as they affect the School District and its employees. The District will not purchase any videos, computer software, audio tapes, publications or other materials that have been illegally copied or reproduced.

Copyrighted materials, whether they are print or non-print, will not be duplicated unless such reproduction meets “fair use” standards, or unless written permission from the copyright holder has been received.

Details about “fair use” will be made available to all teachers. A summary of these standards will be posted or otherwise made easily available at each machine used for making copies.

The Board does not sanction illegal duplication in any form. Employees who willfully disregard the District’s copyright position are in violation of Board policy; they do so at their own risk and assume all liability responsibility.

Any materials produced by an employee (or employees), during the time he/she is paid for production of said materials, shall be owned by the School District and any civil rights of authorship are forfeited with payment by the District for production of materials.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6250
(Regulation 6250)
(Form 6250)

Instruction

Instruction for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the District to provide a free appropriate public education to all public school students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are defined as those students who have one of the categorical disabilities as enumerated in the Missouri State Plan for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and who are in need of special education services or who have a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The District will provide special education and/or other services to students with disabilities in accordance with applicable law, including the IDEA, and its amendments, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, §162.670-.995, RSMo., and Missouri's State Plan for Part B of the IDEA. For appeal procedures and information as to where to obtain a copy of the District's 504 Procedural Safeguards regarding identification, evaluation or educational placement of a student under Section 504, refer to Regulation 2110 - Equal Education Opportunity.

To obtain a copy of the District's IDEA procedural safeguards, including appeal procedures, please contact Director Special Services at Central Office.

When providing print materials to students with visual impairments, the District will adhere to the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS) or will provide such print materials in timely fashion via high quality accessible materials.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6251
(Regulation 6251)

Instruction

Blind Students Independence, Training and Education

Each blind or visually impaired student will receive instruction in Braille reading and writing as part of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) unless the IEP team determines, based on the student's skills, needs and whether the student requires Braille instruction. No student will be denied instruction in Braille reading and writing solely because the student has some vision. During the evaluation process, consideration shall be given regarding appropriate Braille instruction based on a potential vision loss due to a degenerative medical diagnosis.

For purposes of this Policy/Regulation, the following terms and definitions are applicable:

1. "Accessible assistive technology device," an assistive technology device, as defined In 20 U.S.C. Section 55 1401, as amended, that provides blind or visually impaired students benefits of an educational program in an equally effective and integrated manner as that provided to nondisabled students.
2. "Adequate Instruction," the quality teaching of blind or visually impaired students, as it pertains to general education and necessary blindness skills, in alignment with the U.S. Department of Education's definition of free appropriate public education, as defined In 20 U.S. C. Section 1401, as amended.
3. "Blind or visually impaired student":
 - a) A child who:
 - i. Has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) as such terms are defined in 20 U.S.C, Section 1401, as amended, or a 504-plan created under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, as amended; and
 - ii. Is identified as having the disability of "visual Impairment (Including blindness)" within the definition of "child with a disability" in 20 U.S.C. Section 1401 as amended; or
4. "Braille", the system of reading and writing through touch.
5. "Expanded core curriculum," a disability-specific curriculum that compensates for vision loss, is foundational to all other learning, and that covers the nine essential areas of compensatory access, sensory efficiency, assistive technology, orientation and mobility, social interaction, recreation and leisure, independent living, self-determination, and career education.
6. "Grade level instruction", instruction that aligns with state-designated content standards and curricula for students of the same age or level of maturity, based on the development of intellectual, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacity that is typical for the student's age or age group.

7. "Local educational agency" or "LEA", the same definition as In 20 U.S.C. 1401, as amended.
8. "Nonvisual access", the ability of a blind or visually impaired student to use all functions of a device, without using the student's vision, In an equally effective, equally Integrated manner and with equivalent ease of use as the student's sighted peers.
9. "Nonvisual skills," skills that are taught in such a way that the student does not need to use any vision.
10. "State educational agency," the same definition as In 20 U.S. C. Section 1401, as amended.

NEW 12/22

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6255 (Regulation 6255)

Instruction

Independent Educational Evaluation Policy for Disabled Students under the IDEA

The parent or legal guardian of a student with a disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) or of a student suspected of having an IDEA disability has the right to obtain an independent evaluation subject to the provisions of this policy. The parent or legal guardian has the right to an independent educational evaluation at public expense if they disagree with an evaluation or any component of an evaluation obtained or conducted by the District. The parent or legal guardian may request one independent educational evaluation in response to each evaluation completed by the District. If the parent request for an independent evaluation comes one year or more from the date of the completion of the District’s evaluation, the District may seek to complete a reevaluation prior to paying for an independent educational evaluation.

Definitions:

1. *An independent educational evaluation (IEE)* means an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the District. An independent educational evaluation must meet the educational evaluation criteria used by the District when it initiates an evaluation to the extent those criteria are consistent with the parent’s right to an IEE.
2. *Public expense* means that the District either pays for the full cost of the evaluation or ensures that the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to the parent. The District may, therefore, use whatever State, local, Federal or private sources of financial support are available to pay for the costs of an independent educational evaluation.

A parent is not required to notify the District prior to obtaining an IEE. However, if the parent or legal guardian requests an independent educational at public expense, the District will request that the parent provide a reason why he or she objects to the District’s evaluation. In making that request, the District may not unreasonably delay either providing the requested independent educational evaluation at public expense or initiating a due process hearing to defend the District’s evaluation.

If a parent requests an independent educational evaluation at public expense, the District will:

- (1) Provide the parent or legal guardian with a copy of this policy and the District’s IEE procedures; and
- (2) Provide the parent with information about where an IEE may be obtained within the parameters of this policy and the District’s procedures; and

(3) (a) ensure that an independent educational evaluation is provided at public expense; or (b) initiate a due process hearing to show that the District's evaluation is appropriate or that the IEE obtained by the parent did not meet District criteria.

If the District initiates a hearing and the final decision supports the appropriateness of the District's evaluation, the parent still has the right to an independent educational evaluation, but not at public expense.

If a parent or legal guardian obtains an IEE at private expense and presents that IEE to the District, the results of that evaluation must be considered by the District in any decision regarding the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student. In addition, any IEE obtained by the parents at private expense may be presented as evidence at a due process hearing regarding that student.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6260

Instruction

Educational Surrogate

The Board of Education directs the Administration to determine whether a disabled student is in need of an educational surrogate within thirty (30) days of the date of notification that the student is living within District jurisdiction. The Administration is directed to notify the Division of Special Education at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in writing within ten (10) days of the determination that such need exists.

The District designates the Director of Special Services who is responsible for overseeing the educational surrogate program in the District.

Rev. 10/2013

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6270
(Regulation 6270)

Instruction

Instruction for At-Risk

The School District shall meet all federal and state requirements for identifying and providing services to educationally at-risk students.

At-risk students are those whose educational outcomes are in jeopardy because they are experiencing academic deficits, have become disaffected with school and learning, or impacted by other factors which impede education and social development.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6271

Instruction

Instruction for Gifted and Talented Students

The Board of Education, recognizing the need for programs addressing the special needs of gifted and talented students, shall endeavor to provide the level of monetary support it deems proper to enhance programs for those students so identified. Procedures for the selection of programs and students will be developed by the professional staff and approved by the Board.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6272

Instruction

Instruction for Pre-school

The Board of Education will enter into programs for pre-school children, as is provided for in the statutes of the State of Missouri, and subject to the rules and regulations of the specific legislation governing the administration of the program. The School District will provide an organization for continuous progress in education to fit the needs of individuals of the community within the limitations of District finances.

Within these limitations, the Board will provide school facilities for the purpose of maintaining and expanding programs and services for pre-school children. Such programs will be commensurate with the needs of the community. The Board will provide administrative, ancillary and other supportive services needed to enhance the quality of the pre-school education program.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6273
(Regulation 6273)

Instruction

Instruction for Homeless Students

The Board of Education is committed to providing access to educational opportunities to eligible homeless students. Services will be provided consistent with federal law and with Missouri's state plan for the education of homeless children.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6274

Instruction

Instruction for Migrant Students

The Superintendent will develop appropriate means to identify migrant students and to develop plans to meet the educational needs of these children. Migrant students will be provided the full range of education and related services provided to other District students.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6275
(Form 6275)

Instruction

Instruction for Homebound Students

Homebound instructional programs will be administratively considered for non-disabled students who for health reasons are likely to be absent for more than ten school days. Decisions with respect to homebound instruction for disabled students under Section 504 or the IDEA are made by the students' 504 or IEP team. Please refer to Regulation 6275 for specific homebound procedures.

Instruction**Vocational and Technical Education**

The Board of Education believes that vocational and technical education is critical to the development of skills necessary for satisfying careers. The underlying foundation for all academic courses should be the relationship of class concepts to practical job application. Occupational education shall encompass career awareness, career exploration and career preparation to include vocational training opportunities, either within the local high school(s) and/or local area vocational and technical schools.

District vocational programs shall meet all state and federal guidelines and requirements, including the formation and utilization of advisory councils in all areas.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6310
(Regulation 6310)

Libraries, Media and Technology Services

School Libraries

The Board believes that it is the responsibility of the District's library/media centers to provide materials that reflect the ideals and beliefs of religious, social, political, historical and ethnic groups, and their contributions to American and world cultures. Materials will be selected which are related to and support the District's curriculum. Selection of and access to library/media materials will be based upon the contribution to the education program and the age appropriateness of the materials.

Intellectual Access

The library/media program serves as a point of access to information and ideas for students as they acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students and educators served by the library/media program should have access to resources and services free of constraints resulting from artificial barriers. Artificial barriers should not prevent students from accessing and using resources except as defined by District policies and regulations, including but not limited to selection, acquisition and Internet usage policies and regulations.

Confidentiality

The District recognizes the need for confidentiality of school library records. Therefore, no person will release any library record of any student, faculty or other library user to any third party except as provided by law.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6320
(Regulation 6320)

Libraries, Media and Technology Services

Internet Safety Policy

A. Introduction

It is the policy of the District to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

B. Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

C. Internet Safety Training

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, each year, all District students will receive internet safety training which will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. Such training will include internet, cell phones, text messages, chat rooms, email, and instant messaging programs. (See also Policy 6116 - State Mandated Curriculum – Human Sexuality)

D. Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

E. Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all District employees to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's

Internet protection Act. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director of Technology or designated representatives.

REV. 3/16

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6410
Form 6410

Evaluation Services

Evaluation of Instructional Programs

The Board of Education believes that maximizing the quality of District services and administrative decision-making requires the regular evaluation of all District programs. Evaluations may identify the success of District programs in meeting their objectives. Utilization of program evaluation should result in the improvement of District programs and will provide data for Board and staff decision-making. The Superintendent is directed to develop procedures for program evaluation and reporting.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6420

Evaluation Services

Test Security

All standardized testing materials shall be stored, distributed and collected according to procedures which insure the security and authorized access to test booklets. The Superintendent shall designate a District test coordinator who will direct the administration and security procedures for each testing site.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6440

Evaluation Services

Statewide Assessments

All students will participate in statewide assessments or alternate assessments as determined by a student's IEP team. The administration will annually develop an assessment schedule for the current school year. The testing schedule will list the assessment instrument to be administered and the grade level of students that will be administered each test or assessment instrument. This policy and the assessment schedule are available to each student, parents/guardians, and the public each school year via the District website.

The District does not administer statewide Grade-Level assessments or End-of-Course assessments to students who reside within District boundaries but who are not enrolled in the District full-time, including but not limited to private school and homeschooled students. The District will administer the ACT to students who reside within District boundaries but who are not enrolled in the District full-time, including but not limited to private school and homeschooled students one day each year on the date designated by DESE as "statewide administration of ACT day." Non-enrolled students must meet the criteria set forth by DESE to participate in this no cost ACT administration.

Evaluation Services**Screening for Dyslexia**

Dyslexia is a disorder that is neurological in origin, characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent word recognition and poor spelling and decoding abilities that typically result from a deficit on the phonological component of language, often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction, and of which secondary consequences may include problems in reading, comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

In order to close the gap between struggling readers and their “normally” developing peers, the District will:

1. Identify students at risk for dyslexia or reading failure.
2. Form small groups for instruction and intervention.
3. Plan instruction and intervention.
4. Goal setting for individual student achievement.
5. Set criteria for intervention exit.

Screening

Each student, kindergarten through third grade, will annually be screened for dyslexia within the first thirty (30) days of the school year. In order to monitor progress or lack of progress, benchmark assessments will also be completed for K-3 students in the middle and at the end of each school year.

The dyslexia screening protocol set forth in this policy will also be administered to the following students:

1. K-3 Missouri transfer students who have not been previously screened.
2. K-3 out-of-state transfer students who do not have documentation of previous screening.
3. Students in grades 4 and above with a record of potential dyslexia related issues as determined by the classroom teacher or as requested by the student’s parent/guardian.

The following groups are exempt from dyslexia screening:

1. Students with an existing diagnosis of dyslexia.
2. Students with a sensory impairment (visual/auditory).
3. Students with severe intellectual disabilities.
4. Students who are English Learners where screening administration and/or interpretation are not available. However, English Learners may be screened for dyslexia-related risk factors through screening in the student's native language, where feasible.

Screening Components

There is no one test that encompasses all recommended skills. The District will utilize screening tools that are both reliable and valid. However, universal screening is not sufficient to identify students with dyslexia. Universal screening can reveal specific weaknesses that are consistent with dyslexia. Monitoring a student's response to high quality reading instruction may be the best way to identify students with severe dyslexia.

The District will identify the appropriate staff to complete student screenings. These staff members may include: classroom teachers, reading interventionists, Title I teachers, reading specialists, or coaches or any combination of these individuals.

Supports and Accommodations

Once identified, students with dyslexia will be provided with the supports and accommodations tailored to meet the individual student's needs. These accommodations will derive from the following supports and accommodations.

1. General classroom instruction modifications.
2. Instructional environment.
3. Technology
4. Social/Emotional

5. Design of Classroom Assignments
6. Test and Exams.

The District will consider the specific supports and accommodations set forth in DESE's "Serving Students at Risk for Dyslexia: Guidance to LEAs."

Practicing Teacher Assistance Problems

Practicing teachers will receive two hours of in-service training during the 2018-19 school year regarding dyslexia and related disorders. Teachers employed by the District in subsequent years, who have not received this training in another district will be provided the same training by video or by in-person training.

Such in-service training should include:

1. Introduction to dyslexia and dyslexia simulation;
2. Key areas of literacy and reading intervention;
3. Screening/progress monitoring, data-based decision-making, fidelity and classroom supports.
4. Training for secondary-level staff will be tailored to the unique needs of secondary students.

New 8/2018

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6450

Evaluation Services

Assignment of Grades

Student performance is assessed on a continual basis throughout the school year. This evaluation assesses student growth in expression of ideas, communication, achievement of educational goals, and personal growth, and development. Grades will be assigned based upon student ability, achievement, effort, and cooperation.

A disabled student's IEP team or Section 504 team may determine that his/her academic requirements, including but not limited to the requirements for achieving a specific letter or numerical grade, may be modified or altered. Under these circumstances, the IEP team or Section 504 team shall determine whether the student shall be included in the computation of class rank. Students who are not included in the class rank shall still receive a cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) and shall be eligible for the honor roll.

If a non-disabled student is receiving homebound instruction, the principal, counselor and/or classroom teacher(s) for such course(s), in conjunction with the homebound teacher, shall determine whether the student shall be included in the computation of class rank, depending on the degree of modification or alteration to the curriculum the homebound student requires. Homebound students who are not included in the class ranking shall still receive a cumulative G.P.A. and shall be eligible for the honor roll.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6510

Community Education/Continuing Education Program

Instruction for Adults

The administration will assess the needs of the community for post school programs. Where community needs are identified and where funds are available, the Board will consider initiation of specific adult education programs. In cooperation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the District will seek community assistance in raising the level of community awareness of its English language services when the District provides Adult Basic Education programs.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Policy 6530

Office Methods and Data Management

E-mail Records and Electronically Stored Information

Any e-mails that constitute a record under District Policy and Regulation 6531 or otherwise should be retained for the benefit of the District and therefore must be saved for an extended period of time to exceed one month shall either be 1) printed and physically filed in such a way that it will be easily retrievable or 2) saved directly to a file on one of the District servers from which it will be easily retrievable. The District will regularly delete unnecessary e-mails on the District's computer system, typically, on the first school day of each month during the school year.

Until the District's e-mail system can be equipped with such capabilities, all District e-mail account holders shall regularly update their e-mail account by either saving necessary and pertinent e-mails to a District approved storage device, printing them and filing them appropriately, or deleting unnecessary e-mails from their account. This process shall become a permanent and regular occurrence if the automatic deletion process is not implemented into the District's e-mail system.