

Policy IGA - Curriculum Development

The School Committee believes that a child's social, emotional and intellectual growth should take place in carefully planned stages. To this end, the superintendent shall oversee the development of an instructional program that is coordinated system-wide and follows an orderly and related sequence from grade to grade and school to school.

The Committee also wishes the school system's educational program to be meaningful to and reflective of its students and their families. Therefore, the Committee expects that:

1. the superintendent and **all faculty are** perpetually sensitive to changing conditions that may require **adjustments** in the curriculum.
2. all programs are under continuous evaluation to see that they meet the evolving needs of children.
3. **all programs are under continuous evaluation to see that they are aligned to and consistent with current Massachusetts curriculum and instructional frameworks.**
4. the school system to undertake intensive curriculum evaluation and revision in certain areas from time to time as the need for this is demonstrated.

The Committee will hear regular reports on instructional programs and ongoing curriculum study and revision. Substantive revisions of or additions to the PK-12 course of study will be presented to the School Committee through the superintendent for discussion, questions, and feedback in advance of implementation.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [69:1E](#)

[603 CMR 26:05](#)

Policy IGD - Curriculum Adoption

The Dedham School Committee will rely on its professional staff to design and implement instructional programs and courses of study that will forward the educational goals of the school system **consistent with policy IGA**.

The Superintendent will have authority to approve new programs and courses of study after they have been thoroughly studied and found to support educational goals. The Committee itself will consider, and officially adopt, new programs and courses when they constitute an extensive alteration in instructional content or approach.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [15:1G](#); [69:1E](#); [71:1](#)

Policy IHA - Basic Instructional Program

Massachusetts General Law requires that schools "...shall give instruction and training in orthography, reading, writing, the English language and grammar, geography, arithmetic, drawing, music, the history and Constitution of the United States, the duties of citizenship, health education, physical education and good behavior..."

The Dedham School Committee affirms these fundamental goals of public education and, in service of these, expects that:

1. the curriculum shall present the culture, history, activities, and contributions of persons and groups of different **race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, and sexual orientation.**
2. **the curriculum shall be aligned to current approved Massachusetts curriculum and instructional frameworks.**
3. all school books, instructional and educational materials shall be reviewed for **bias and stereotyping.** Appropriate activities, discussions and/or supplementary materials shall be used to counteract **bias and** stereotypes depicted in such materials.
4. school books, instructional and educational materials purchased after the date of 603 CMR 26.00 shall in the aggregate, include characterizations and situations which depict **all** individuals in a broad variety of positive roles.
5. each school shall provide equal opportunity for physical education, **health**, art, music, and drama for all students. Goals, objectives and skill development standards, where used, shall **be inclusive of all students.**
6. **the Superintendent and/or their designee maintain a curriculum advisory group composed of parent, faculty and community representatives for the purpose of sharing and gathering information about the curriculum and its ongoing development.**

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:1; 71:2; 71:3; 71:13 603 CMR 26:00

Policy IJ - Instructional Materials

The Dedham School Committee believes that materials appropriate to the needs of the school program must be available to each student and teacher. These will be furnished by the School Committee subject to budgetary constraints.

While the task of selecting instructional materials for programs will be delegated to the professional staff of the school system, **the School Committee requires that instructional materials selected for use in all schools and classrooms must:**

1. **reflect the strategic goals, vision, and mission of the Dedham School Committee.**
2. present balanced views of international, national, and local issues and problems of the past, present and future.
3. provide materials that stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic and ethical values.
4. help students develop abilities in critical reading and thinking.
5. help develop and foster an appreciation of cultural diversity and development in the United States and throughout the world.
6. provide for all students an effective basic education that does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, physical disabilities or sexual orientation.
7. allow sufficient flexibility for meeting the special needs of individual students and groups of students.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 30B:7; [71:48](#); [71:49](#); [71:50](#)

BESE regulations 603 CMR [26.00](#)

Policy IJ-R - Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

Material that is challenged usually belongs to one of the three basic categories: religion, ideology, or profanity/obscenity.

Committee policies regarding these areas shall be as follows:

1. Religion ~ Factual, unbiased material on religions has a place in school libraries
2. Ideologies ~ Libraries should, with no thought toward swaying reader judgment, make available a balanced collection of primary and factual material, on the level of their students on various ideologies or philosophies which exert or have exerted a strong force, either favorably or unfavorably, in government, current events, politics, education and other phases of life.
3. Profanity/obscenity ~ Materials shall be subjected to a test of literary merit and reality in context using the criteria established.

Problem Resolution

When a problem concerning instructional resources in a school arises, the disposition of the problem will be made in a reasonable period of time using district procedures established by the Superintendent or their designee.

No questioned materials shall be removed from the curriculum pending a final **recommendation by the Materials Review Committee and a vote of the School Committee**. Pending the outcome of the request for reconsideration, however, access to questioned materials can be denied to the students of the parents making the complaint, if they so desire.

If the Materials Review Committee recommends retention of the questioned material or resources and the School Committee affirms this recommendation, the District will not convene a Review Committee relative to the same complaint for a period of three years. If a substantially different point of view is advanced, it will be vetted through the District's established procedure.