

to reach the greatest possible consensus prior to its submission and shall include any minority report which is developed.

(f) A locally approved strategic plan shall remain in effect until it is superseded by a locally approved revision or a new strategic plan developed under this section.

Cross References

This section is cited in 22 Pa. Code § 4.3 (relating to definitions); 22 Pa. Code § 4.4 (relating to general policies); 22 Pa. Code § 4.11 (relating to purpose of public education); 22 Pa. Code § 4.12 (relating to academic standards); 22 Pa. Code § 4.21 (relating to elementary education: primary and intermediate levels); 22 Pa. Code § 4.22 (relating to middle level education); 22 Pa. Code § 4.23 (relating to high school education); 22 Pa. Code § 4.24 (relating to high school graduation requirements); 22 Pa. Code § 4.31 (relating to vocational-technical education); 22 Pa. Code § 4.33 (relating to advisory committees); 22 Pa. Code § 4.51 (relating to State assessment system); 22 Pa. Code § 4.52 (relating to local assessment system); 22 Pa. Code § 4.61 (relating to school profiles); 22 Pa. Code § 4.83 (relating to implementation schedule); 22 Pa. Code § 12.41 (relating to student services); and 22 Pa. Code § 14.104 (relating to educational plans).

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

§ 4.21. Elementary education: primary and intermediate levels.

(a) The primary program shall ordinarily be completed by children who are approximately 8 years of age. School districts shall provide opportunities for individualized rates of learning and social and emotional development that reflect differing rates of development and learning styles of young children.

(b) Curriculum and instruction in the primary program shall focus on introducing young children to formal education, developing an awareness of the self in relation to others and the environment, and developing skills of communication, thinking and learning.

(c) The intermediate level program shall ordinarily be completed by children who are approximately 11 years of age.

(d) Curriculum and instruction in the intermediate level program shall continue the development of communication, thinking and learning skills and shall begin to focus on learning specific subject matter content.

(e) Planned instruction in the following areas shall be provided to every student every year in the primary program. Planned instruction may be provided as separate course or as an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity.

(1) Language arts, integrating reading, writing, phonics, spelling, listening, speaking, literature and grammar, and information management, including library skills.

(2) Mathematics, including problem-solving and computation skills.

- (3) Science and technology education, involving active learning experiences for students.
- (4) Environment and ecology education, involving active learning experiences for students.

(5) Social studies (civics and government, economics, geography and history).

(6) Health, safety and physical education, including instruction in concepts and skills which affect personal, family and community health and safety, nutrition, physical fitness, movement concepts, motor skill development, safety in physical activity settings, and the prevention of alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse.

(7) The arts, including active learning experiences in art, music, dance and theatre.

(f) Planned instruction in the following areas shall be provided to every student every year in the intermediate level program. Planned instruction may be provided as a separate course or as an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity:

(1) Language arts, integrating reading, writing, spelling, listening, speaking, literature and grammar.

(2) Mathematics, including problem-solving and computation skills.

(3) Science and technology, including, when appropriate, instruction about agriculture and agricultural science.

(4) Environment and ecology, including, when appropriate, instruction about agriculture and agricultural science.

(5) Social studies (civics and government, economics, geography and history).

(6) The arts, including art, music, dance and theatre.

(7) Understanding and use of library and other information sources.

(8) Health, safety and physical education, including instruction in concepts and skills which affect personal, family and community health and safety, nutrition, physical fitness, movement concepts, motor skill development, safety in physical activity settings, and the prevention of alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse.

(g) Planned instruction in the following areas shall be provided to every student at least once by the end of elementary school. Planned instruction may be provided as a separate course or as an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity. See section 1511 of the School Code (24 P.S. § 15-1511).

(1) History of the United States.

(2) History of the Commonwealth.

(3) Geography.

(4) Civics.

(h) This section does not preclude the teaching of other planned instruction designed to achieve a school district's, including charter schools, mission, goals and academic standards.

(i) School districts, including charter schools, shall determine the most appropriate way to operate their primary and intermediate level elementary programs to achieve the purposes under subsections (b) and (d) and the mission, goals and academic standards in their strategic plans under § 4.13 (relating to strategic plans).

(j) Beginning in the 2001-2002 school year, students who have not achieved proficiency in reading and mathematics during their primary grades (K—3), as determined by the school district, (including charter schools) shall be afforded additional instructional opportunities through a grade-level learning plan developed by the school district (including charter schools). The plan will assist the student in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve at the proficient level. Assessments to measure proficiency shall be described in the local assessment system under § 4.52 (relating to local assessment system).

(k) Beginning in the 2001-2002 school year, students who have not achieved proficiency in reading and mathematics by the end of grade 5 as determined on State assessments under § 4.51 (relating to State assessment system) shall be afforded instructional opportunities to develop knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the proficient level.

Cross References

This section cited in 22 Pa. Code § 4.27 (relating to physical education and athletics).

§ 4.22. Middle level education.

(a) The middle level program ordinarily serves children who are approximately 11—14 years of age. School districts, including charter schools, may modify the grouping of students based upon student needs identified in their strategic plans under § 4.13 (relating to strategic plans).

(b) Curriculum and instruction in the middle level program shall focus on mastery of academic subjects, the development of critical and creative thinking, information literacy, good health and encourage active participation in the school and community.

(c) Planned instruction in the following areas shall be provided to every student in the middle level program. Planned instruction may be provided as a separate course or as an instructional unit within a course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity:

(1) Language arts, integrating reading, writing, listening, speaking, literature and grammar.

(2) Mathematics, including mathematical reasoning, algebra and problem-solving.

(3) Science and technology, which involves active learning experiences and which may include laboratory experiments and, when appropriate, instruction in agriculture and agricultural science.

(4) Social studies (civics and government, economics, geography and history, including the history and cultures of the United States, the Commonwealth, and the world).

(5) Environment and ecology, including social, political and economic aspects of ecology and when appropriate, instruction in agriculture and agricultural sciences.

(6) Information skills, including access to traditional and electronic information sources, computer use and research.

(7) Health, safety and physical education, including instruction in concepts and skills which affect personal, family and community health and safety, nutrition, physical fitness, movement concepts, motor skill development, safety in physical activity settings, and the prevention of alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse.

(8) The arts, including art, music, dance and theatre.

(9) Career education, including exposure to various career options and the educational preparation necessary to achieve those options.

(10) Technology education, emphasizing practical application of academic skills and problem-solving experiences facilitated by technology.

(11) Family and consumer science, including principles of consumer behavior and basic knowledge of child health and child care skills.

(d) This section does not preclude the teaching of other planned instruction designed to achieve a school district's, including charter schools, academic standards.

(e) School districts, including charter schools, shall determine the most appropriate way to operate their middle level programs to achieve the purposes under subsection (b) and the academic standards in their strategic plans under § 4.13.

Cross References

This section cited in 22 Pa. Code § 4.27 (relating to physical education and athletics).

§ 4.23. High school education.

(a) Instruction in the high school program shall focus on the development of abilities needed to succeed in work and advanced education through planned instruction.

(b) Curriculum and instruction in the high school program shall provide all students opportunities to develop the skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation and problem-solving, and information literacy.

(c) Planned instruction in the following areas shall be provided to every student in the high

school program. Planned instruction may be provided as a separate course or as an instructional unit within a course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity:

- (1) Language arts, integrating reading, writing, listening, speaking, literature and grammar.
 - (2) Mathematics, including problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, algebra, geometry and concepts of calculus.
 - (3) Science and technology, including participation in hands-on experiments and at least one laboratory science chosen from life sciences, earth and space sciences, chemical sciences, physical sciences and agricultural sciences.
 - (4) Social studies (civics and government, economics, geography and history, including the history and cultures of the United States, the Commonwealth and the world).
 - (5) Environment and ecology, including scientific, social, political and economic aspects of ecology.
 - (6) The arts, including art, music, dance, theatre and humanities.
 - (7) Use of applications of microcomputers and software, including word processing, database, spreadsheets and telecommunications; and information skills, including access to traditional and electronic information sources, computer use and research.
 - (8) Health, safety and physical education, including instruction in concepts and skills which affect personal, family and community health and safety, nutrition, physical fitness, movement concepts, motor skill development, safety in physical activity settings, and the prevention of alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse.
 - (9) Family and consumer science, including principles of consumer behavior and basic knowledge of child health and child care skills.
- (d) The following planned instruction shall be made available to every student in the high school program:
- (1) Vocational-technical education under §§ 4.3 and 4.31—4.35 (relating to definitions; and vocational-technical education).
 - (2) Business education, including courses to assist students in developing business and information technology skills.
 - (3) World languages under § 4.25 (relating to languages).
 - (4) Technology education, incorporating technological problem-solving and the impacts of technology on individuals and society.
- (e) College-level advanced placement courses may be offered as planned instruction in the high school curriculum.