

#### **§ 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).