

Instruction--Elementary and Secondary**PRINCIPLES FOR IMPROVEMENT**

Curriculum improvement should consider the basic understandings regarding human growth, the nature of learning and teaching, the nature of the society in which we live, and the purpose of education in a democracy.

Guiding Principles

1. The curriculum consists of all learning experiences utilized by the school in helping students grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and morally.
2. The curriculum is based on the needs of the learner and the demands of the society in which the learner lives.
3. Because of individual differences, social change, and the nature of the educative process, continuous planning, development, and evaluation of the curriculum are necessary.
4. All who directly influence the learning experiences of the students should share in the cooperative development of the curriculum.
5. Curriculum improvement is basically a social change which results when growth occurs on the part of people who participate in the development of the educational program.
6. The basic unit for the improvement of instruction is the individual school.
7. The primary responsibility of the Office of Education is to support and coordinate all curriculum improvement activities.
8. The key to a dynamic program of curriculum improvement is the leadership of the principal. The individual school will not emerge as the basic unit for curriculum improvement, regardless of District and region office support and coordination, unless the principal assumes active leadership in developing a curriculum which contributes to the educational and vocational goals of the student within the school. Competent leadership works toward making the improvement of the curriculum a cooperative responsibility.

9. The participation of the classroom teacher in curriculum improvement activities is indispensable in building an effective educational program.
10. A sound program of curriculum improvement provides for the development of understandings and acceptance of changes by students, teachers, parents, administrators, and lay citizens.
11. Curriculum improvement is a multi-channel process. The lines of communication should be open at all times to consider proposals and recommendations regardless of where they originate.
12. The Office of Education provides guidance and coordination to the total program. This organization is to be constantly evaluated and improved.
13. Staff development programs should be geared to curriculum needs.
14. In the process of curriculum planning consideration should be given to the total program which includes articulation among subject areas, achievement levels, and schools.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.23(7)(a); 230.33(9); 231.085; 231.09 F.S.

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