

Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

The board recognizes its responsibility for the improvement and growth of the educational program of the schools. To this end, the course designs shall be evaluated, adapted and developed on a continuing basis. Instructional materials shall be selected to ensure alignment with state learning standards and enable all students to master foundational skills and knowledge to achieve college and career readiness.

Definitions

For the purpose of policy and procedure 2020, the following definitions will apply:

Course Design is the process that includes identifying and sequencing essential content supporting students' skill development towards state learning standards. Course design involves providing appropriate instructional materials, professional development, and support systems for teachers as they implement the course.

Instructional Materials are all materials designed for use by students and their teachers as learning resources to help students to acquire facts, skills, and/or to develop cognitive processes. These instructional materials, used to help students meet state learning standards, may be printed or digital, and may include textbooks, technology-based materials, other educational media, and assessments. They may carry different licensing types from open to all rights reserved. For the purposes of this policy, there are five categories of instructional materials:

Core Instructional Materials are the primary instructional resources for a given course. They are district-approved and provided to all students to help meet learning standards and provide instruction towards course requirements.

Alternative Core Materials are the primary instructional materials for a given course that are used with a subset of students. These materials are intended to replace approved core materials and may be used for specialized course offerings or flexible learning environments.

Intervention Materials are designed to support strategic or intensive intervention for students who are at risk of not meeting established learning standards. Intervention materials are used with students to accelerate progress toward particular learning goals based on systematic assessment, decision-making, and progress monitoring.

Supplemental Materials are used in conjunction with the core instructional materials of a course. These items extend and support instruction. They include, but are not limited to, books, periodicals, visual aids, video, sound recordings, computer software and other digital content.

Temporary Supplemental Materials are those items used in conjunction with the core instructional materials of a course that are of interest or value for a short period of time and are chosen within district-established guidelines. They are not intended to supplant the adopted curriculum nor be used on a regular instructional basis. Examples might include timely articles from relevant, reliable sources, websites, or news broadcasts. The use of temporary supplemental materials for time periods of over one year requires consideration of the material as either part of the core instructional material for a course or supplemental material for the course depending on the nature and scope of the material.

Instructional Materials Committee is the body that makes core instructional materials adoption recommendations to the School Board based on superintendent-established procedures.

Course Design

The superintendent or designee will establish procedures for course design that:

- Provide for the regular review of selected content areas and implementation of any suggested changes.
- Provide for involvement of community representatives and staff members at appropriate times.

Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

The primary objective in selecting instructional materials is to implement, enrich and support the educational program of the schools. All instructional materials will be selected in conformance with:

1. Applicable state and federal laws;
2. Goals and/or learning standards of the district and state; and
3. Procedures established by the instructional materials committee which address the criteria detailed in the corresponding procedure 2020P.

The board is responsible for the adoption of all core materials used in the district.

The superintendent, or designee, will establish procedures for core material, alternate core, and intervention material selection and adoption using criteria around evidence-based practices.

The superintendent will ensure that a listing of all core instructional materials used within the school curriculum is maintained in the district and is available for public review either in-person or online.

The intent of the board is that the superintendent delegate responsibility for examining, evaluating, and selecting all supplemental and temporary supplemental materials to the professional staff of the district. This includes preparing all student reading lists. Staff will rely on reason and professional judgment in the selection of high quality supplemental materials that align to state learning standards and are appropriate for the instructional program and developmental level and interests of their students.

Cross References: 2027 - District Ownership of Staff-Created Work

Legal References: RCW 28A.150.230 District school directors' responsibilities
RCW 28A.320.230 Instructional materials — Instructional materials committee
RCW 28A.320.170 Tribal history and culture [as amended by SSB 5433]
RCW 28A.405.060 Course of study and regulations — Enforcement — Withholding salary warrant for failure
Chapter 28A.640 RCW Sexual Equality
WAC 180-44-010 Responsibilities related to instruction
WAC 392-190-055 Textbooks and instructional materials — Scope — Elimination of bias

Management Resources: 2015 - December Issue

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Procedure - Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

For the purposes of this procedure, the definitions from Policy 2020 will apply.

District course design and core instructional materials should be regularly reviewed to ensure their ongoing alignment with state law, teaching and learning standards, and research-based best practices. All students will receive high quality core instruction and, as appropriate, strategic and intensive intervention supports matched to student needs.

Course Design

Existing Courses

The superintendent or designee will establish a regular cycle of course design review and development that includes examination by review committees composed of district subject area coordinators and, as appropriate, external content area experts. This review cycle should be based on student need, changing demographics and funding. The cycle should cover each content area to ensure current course relevance. The course design process should review:

- Relevance, rigor, and alignment to state learning standards;
- Efficacy of core, alternative core, and intervention instructional materials that support student learning; and
- Processes and resources used to assess student progress and address teacher professional learning.

Recommendations of this review may lead to:

- Affirmation of continued use of current processes and instructional materials;
- Establishment of a timeline for completion of recommended tasks;
- Creation and assignment of tasks to subcommittees as required to select, write, or revise the course design;
- Recommendation of new instructional materials selection to the Instructional Materials Committee;
- Design of course implementation and staff development plans;
- Identification of projected budget needs in accordance with established timelines; and/or
- Maintained communications with impacted stakeholders.

Social studies curriculum review or adoption

In compliance with [RCW 28A.320.170](#), when the board adopts or reviews the district's social studies curriculum, it will incorporate history, culture and government of the nearest federally recognized Indian tribe or tribes utilizing curriculum available on the OSPI website. The district may modify the OSPI curriculum to incorporate elements that have a regionally specific focus or may incorporate the curriculum into existing instructional materials.

During regularly scheduled reviews and revisions of their social studies and history curriculum thereafter, the district will collaborate with any federally recognized Indian tribe within its boundaries and with neighboring Indian tribes to expand and improve instructional materials about Indian tribes and to create programs of classroom and community cultural exchange.

The district will collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public instruction on curricular areas regarding tribal government and history that are statewide in nature.

New Courses or Major Modifications to Existing Courses

New course offerings or major course modifications that propose significant changes to course objectives or

scope will be reviewed by the superintendent or designee prior to being scheduled to ensure that the course is rigorous, utilizes appropriate instructional materials, and is a carefully considered part of the school's college and career pathways.

When the implementation of new or modified courses requires the adoption of new instructional resources, those resource recommendations will be forwarded to the Instructional Materials Committee for consideration by the process outlined below.

Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

For the purposes of this procedure, instructional materials used in the school district will be classified as core, alternative core, intervention, supplemental, and temporary supplemental and shall be selected according to the procedures that follow. The principal is responsible for ensuring the continuing familiarity of his/her certificated staff with the requirement of this policy and procedure. The district office will provide such technical assistance as may be necessary to accomplish this.

Roles and Responsibilities in the Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

| Instructional Material Type | Role | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------|
| | Certificated Teaching Staff | Principal | Superintendent | Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) | School Board |
| Core material | identify | | establish adoption procedure | recommend | adopt |
| Alternative core | identify | | designate selector | | |
| Intervention | identify | | designate selector | | |
| Supplemental | identify | designate selector | | | |
| Temporary Supplemental | select – within district guidelines | | | | |

Instructional Material Delivery Formats

Instructional materials may be delivered in many formats, and may include textbooks, technology-based materials, or other educational media.

Open Educational Resources

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. A wide variety of free, high quality instructional content is available from supplemental to core instructional materials. District staff are encouraged to consider OER when selecting instructional materials. OER are subject to the same selection and adoption procedures as other instructional materials outlined in this document.

Technology-based Resources

When instructional materials are technology based, district educational technology staff should be consulted regarding the technological impacts of the suggested program. Equity of access for students and teachers must be considered for all core materials delivered in digital formats.

Core Instructional Material Selection

Instructional Materials Committee

The Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) is formed to establish and monitor such procedures as may be necessary for the evaluation and recommendation of core materials used by the district in conformance to stated criteria. The committee will act upon requests for core material approval and will evaluate and act upon citizens' requests for reconsideration of core materials.

Committee meetings will be held on a schedule determined by the district. Special meetings may be called by the committee chairman if necessary. The committee secretary will provide department heads, principals, and program developers with copies of the committee meeting schedule.

The committee will consist of: *[District Note: Describe the membership of the committee here.]* Instructional Materials Committees may include parents, but state law provides that parents must make up less than one-half the committee.

Members will be appointed by the superintendent or designee through the district's committee process. Membership must be approved by the Board of Directors. The chairman and the secretary will be permanent members of the committee. Other members will have three-year terms. Temporary appointments of one year or less may be made to fill vacancies.

Criteria for Selection of Core Instructional Materials

Core instructional materials shall be selected based upon the degree to which they:

- A. Demonstrate likelihood of impact as shown by scientific or evidence-based research;
- B. Enable implementation of the district's developed curriculum and meet state standards and College Readiness requirements;
- C. Provide sufficient flexibility to meet the varied needs and abilities of the students served;
- D. Provide clear and appropriate differentiation components for English Language Learners, special education students, students with academic opportunity gaps, and highly capable students;
- E. Where appropriate, present balanced but differing views of issues, controversial or otherwise, in order that students may develop critical analysis and informed decision-making skills;
- F. Demonstrate consideration of appropriate format(s) (including technological, visual, and/or auditory components);
- G. Support an equitable access to learning and learning materials for all students; including the provision of appropriate, high-quality accessible instructional materials to all students with disabilities who require them; and
- H. Are free of stereotyping and gender, race, class, and other forms of bias, recognizing that under certain circumstances biased materials may serve as appropriate resources to present contrasting and differing points of view, and biased materials may be employed in order to teach students about bias, stereotyping, and propaganda in historical or contemporary contexts. *The Washington Models for the Evaluation of Bias Content in Instructional Materials*, published by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) should be consulted in the selection process to further to the goal of eliminating content bias:
<https://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/InstructionalMaterialsReview.aspx>.

Identification of Core Instructional Materials

Core materials shall be initially selected by such certificated staff as the superintendent or designee may assign. Materials must meet the Criteria for the Selection of Core Materials above.

Recommendation of Core Instructional Materials

The IMC will receive recommended district material proposals through superintendent-assigned staff. Core material will be reviewed according to superintendent-established procedures to ensure compliance with the above selection criteria and by using instructional material evaluation tools listed on the OSPI website: <https://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/InstructionalMaterialsReview.aspx>

Based on their evaluation, the IMC will recommend instructional materials to the board for adoption.

Adoption of Core Instructional Materials

Core material will be approved by the board prior to their use in classrooms. Texts selected previously are exempt from this requirement.

Regularly Scheduled Core Material Updates

Any courses using OER as their core material shall annually convene a representative group of district teachers of the course to revise and improve the core material. Adaptations shall be based on teacher and student suggestions and data from state or district assessments identifying areas of lower student performance. Revised versions of the core material will be implemented for the following school year.

If the adaptations to the core material results in significant changes to course objectives or scope, the revised resource shall be forwarded to the Instructional Materials Committee for consideration and, formal recommendation for board adoption.

Exceptional Needs or Rapidly Changing Circumstances

The superintendent or designee may authorize the acquisition of alternative core instructional materials to meet exceptional needs or rapidly changing circumstances. However, expanded use of core instructional materials selected for exceptional needs will require adoption through the formal process.

College in the High School, Advanced Placement (AP), and/or International Baccalaureate (IB)
[College in the High School](#), AP, and/or IB courses may have varying course designs as necessitated by their course credit transfer requirements.

Field Testing

The superintendent or designee may consider the use of field testing as part of the adoption process. Field testing can provide a flexible opportunity to investigate the effectiveness of curricular approaches, instructional materials, and/or assessment resources through careful experimentation for an identified purpose based on student needs.

Trial-use core instructional material of an experimental, field-test nature may be authorized for use by the superintendent for a period of no more than one school year prior to adoption through the formal process.

Citizen Access to View Core Materials

Members of the community are invited to review any core instructional materials in current or proposed use. Such review may be accomplished at the school, in the district office, or online. The review and examination process should be arranged in a way to avoid disrupting the educational program. The review of core materials should be undertaken with the knowledge of district objectives in mind.

Intervention Instructional Material Selection

Instructional materials designed to support strategic or intensive intervention for students who are at risk of not meeting established learning standards will be approved by the superintendent or designee based upon evidence from reputable sources (e.g., National Center on Response to Intervention, Johns Hopkins Best Evidence Encyclopedia).

Alternative Core Instructional Material Selection

The superintendent, or designee, will establish procedures through which schools may be approved to use alternative core materials for specialized course offerings or flexible learning environments. In many cases, the superintendent may decide that selection of these alternative core materials be made by certificated staff designated by the building principal.

Supplemental Material Selection

Supplemental materials will not require IMC approval or board adoption.

The superintendent shall delegate responsibility for examining, evaluating, and selecting all supplemental and temporary supplemental materials to the principal or professional staff of the district. This includes preparing all student reading lists using state standards-aligned resources/repositories. Staff will rely on reason and professional judgment in the selection of high quality supplemental materials that align to state learning standards and are appropriate for the instructional program and developmental level and interests of their students. While supplemental materials do not require item-by-item approval of the IMC, staff are expected to thoroughly preview such materials and to give due consideration to the text complexity, developmental level of students; appropriateness of language or images; bias against racial, gender, ethnic, or other social groups; and other sensitive issues.

Temporary Supplemental Material Selection

Professional staff of the district will rely on reason and professional judgment in the selection of high quality

temporary supplemental materials that are appropriate for the instructional program and developmental level and interests of their students.

Protest Procedure for Instructional Materials

When a parent/guardian or employee challenges any instructional materials used or restricted from use in the schools, the following steps should be taken:

1. Concerns should first be discussed with the certificated teacher and/or the school principal. All parties are urged to resolve the concern at this level.
2. If the concerns cannot be resolved through discussion at the school level, the following steps will be taken and the challenged instructional material will continue to be used until a decision is rendered:
 - a. If the challenged instructional material is supplemental in nature, at a parent's written request to the principal, the supplemental material may be asked to be withdrawn from their student. The principal shall facilitate a meeting of the complainant(s) and appropriate school staff. Following the meeting, the principal shall respond with a written decision. If warranted by the scope of the supplemental material, an appeal may be submitted to the superintendent or designee requesting review by the Instructional Materials Committee and a written decision.
 - b. If the instructional material is core, alternative core, or intervention material, the parent/guardian or employee may register a request for reconsideration with the Superintendent or designee. This request will be forwarded to the Instructional Materials Review committee. The IMC will review the complaint and establish a timely process for public consideration of the complaint, if appropriate.

All instructional material reconsideration decisions will be by majority vote of the IMC and are final. Decisions of the committee will be delivered in writing to the superintendent, complainant, and affected staff within ten (10) school business days.

Adoption Date:

Classification:

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