



Curriculum

Special Acknowledgements to Jill Turner, MS



What is Curriculum?

A curriculum is an organized framework that delineates the content that students are to learn, the processes through which students achieve the identified curricular goals, what teachers do to help students learn these goals, and the context in which teaching and learning occur.



Content consists of goals related to:

- Social-Emotional Competence and Skills Sets Specific to Content Area
- Broad General Foundational Knowledge for:
 - Literacy (reading, writing, speaking & listening related to the content area)
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Physical Education and Health
 - Music
 - Visual Arts

Processes are framed by knowledge of:

● Child Development & Learning Theories:

- Erik Erikson (Psychosocial)
- Jean Piaget (Cognitive Developmental Constructivist)
- Lev Vygotsky (Sociocultural Constructivist)
- John Dewey (Progressive Movement)
- Howard Gardner (Multiple Intelligences)
- **Methodology (The How-to-Teach)**
 - Direct Instruction/Behaviorist Approaches (based on Skinner, Pavlov, Watson, Thorndike)
 - Montessori (Maria Montessori)
 - Reggio Emilia (Loris Malaguzzi)
 - Teacher-Centered
 - Interactive Instruction
 - Individualized Instruction
 - Experiential Instruction



What teachers do includes:

- Planning
- implementing
- assessing and
- reflecting upon the curriculum

...for each individual student and for the class as a whole.



The context consists of:

- Structural & Process Factors in Creating the Learning Environment
 - Space and Furnishings (classroom layout and wall text)
 - Routines (class procedures)
 - Activities (movement within the class)
 - Interaction (guidance and discipline, general supervision, teacher-kid interactions, interactions among kids, etc.)
 - Class Structure (schedule, individual time, group time, provisions for students with disabilities)
 - Parents and Teacher (understanding personal needs, supervision, & evaluation)
 - Overall Classroom Management Philosophy

DAP and the Curriculum: Developmentally Appropriate Practice



- DAP is not a curriculum itself
- DAP is based on what is presently know about child development theory
- DAP acknowledges that students learn in different ways at different times
- DAP incorporates a systems approach to education
- A goal of DAP is to provide realistic experiences, materials, and activities for students



Influences on Curriculum

- Teachers' perceptions/assumptions about student, family, community
- Teachers' interpretations of the content
- How teachers shape the content for students to learn
- How teachers manage the classroom
- The perspectives of the larger community

Appropriate and Effective Curricula...

- Provide for all areas of a student's development
- Provide content areas that are worth knowing, meaningful, and easily accessible for all learners
- Are culturally relevant
- Set high expectations for all
- Help students build stable, predictable, and trusting relationships with adults
- Are results oriented
- Are developed by teachers who are confident and who can be a positive influence on student's lives (Jalongo & Isenburg, 2004)

Teachers' Role as a Curriculum Developer (as opposed to Manager)

- Knowledge of child development to plan and enhance learning
- Knowledge of content areas to make learning meaningful
- Use teaching multiple methods that are effective within your discipline
- Teach to “where students are”—interests, cultural backgrounds, & prior knowledge
- “Realize that your curriculum reflects your own personal experiences, values, beliefs, and expectations as much as your knowledge of content and pedagogy” (pg. 195)

Curriculum Standards: Local, State, & National

- Local: school curriculum
- State: IDOE publishes state wide standards
- National: optional standards that states can employ
- Content Standards: know and do at specific grade levels
- Performance Standards: degree of mastery by students (Rubrics)

Characteristics of a Meaningful Curriculum



- Relevant to children
- Culturally responsive
- Inclusive
- Promotes active learning

Curriculum Theory



What is worth knowing???

Four “theoretical orientations of curriculum”:

- Perennialist (Cultural Literacy)
- Essentialist (Social Efficiency)
- Progressives (Democracy and Social change through Individual Enlightenment)
- Social reconstructionists (Social Justice/ Change)