

Policy Code: 3140 Evaluation of Instructional Programs

The Board recognizes the importance of a systematic evaluation of instructional programs. Program evaluation provides the information necessary to make informed, data-driven decisions about program improvement or cessation. District-wide programs, as well as unique school-based programs, should be evaluated on a periodic basis. A program is defined as a set of clearly specified strategies used with a targeted group of students for clearly stated purposes. Examples include summer school, Reading Recovery, AVID and Phoenix Academy.

New programs should be based on research and reflect best practices. Proposals for new programs should include budget requirements and an evaluation plan, along with a detailed program description. Proposals will be reviewed by the Curriculum Management Coordinating Committee for recommendation to the superintendent, for Board approval.

An effective evaluation should conform with the Program Evaluation Standards developed by the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation and must focus on the educational process as well as outcomes by including techniques such as the following:

- testing programs including nationally standardized general achievement tests, national or state standardized tests and criterion-referenced tests in specific subject areas, and tests administered by other agencies;
- observations, surveys, interviews, anthologies and portfolios and other student work products;
- performance-based evaluation;
- student records, including school achievement records and dropout records of students;
- periodic surveys of staff, parents/guardians, students, and community members; and,
- review by outside professionals such as U.S. Department of Education specialists and specialists from other agencies.

The superintendent will be responsible for ensuring that periodic evaluations of district programs are completed on a schedule as identified in the initial instructional program design and for reporting the results with recommendations to the Board of Education. The schedule for evaluations will be reviewed annually to optimize the use of evaluation resources across the district. Decisions to continue or cease a program are made by the Board of Education after review of recommendations from the superintendent.

Any measures used for evaluating the programs must be approved in advance by the superintendent or designee. Both district and school-based instructional programs should be evaluated. Significant changes implemented as a result of evaluation should be a part of a school's improvement plan. In order to support effective implementation of instructional programs, the Board expects appropriate and sufficient professional development to be provided for teachers and administrators.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-36](#), [-47](#), [-276](#)

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (Policy 3000), Testing and Assessment Program (Policy 3410), School Improvement Plan (Policy 3430), Surveys of Students (Policy 4720), Participation in Research Projects (Policy 5320).

Adopted:

Revised: 6/6/02, 5/17/07

