

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The curriculum is a coherent and comprehensive plan for teaching and learning built upon a framework that promotes continuity and the cumulative acquisition and application of key concepts and skills. The curriculum shall state clearly and specifically what students are expected to know and be able to do by grade-level and course. Alexandria City Public Schools curricula shall meet or exceed the requirements of the Code of Virginia and regulations of the Virginia Board of Education and, at a minimum, shall be aligned to the Standards of Learning.

Curriculum development shall be a goal-based process. The process encompasses:

1. Identification of division goals;
2. Identification of program goals and student learning results (expressed in the curriculum as unit-specific Standards of Learning unpacked into transfer goals, essential questions, and objectives for declarative and procedural knowledge);
3. Curriculum monitoring and evaluation; and
4. Curriculum improvement.

The purposes of the process of curriculum development in Alexandria City Public Schools are to:

1. Respond to the division needs assessment and achievement data.
2. Establish definitive (i.e., measurable) student learning objectives in each curriculum area.
3. Monitor the implementation of the curriculum to ensure close alignment between the written curriculum and classroom instruction.
4. Evaluate the results of teaching the curriculum.
5. Provide for continuous curriculum improvement.
6. Provide for curriculum coordination within, between, and across grade levels and content areas.
7. Determine how well individual students accomplish program goals and achieve expected learning results.
8. Provide a process for staff and community input in developing and implementing curriculum.
9. Provide an orderly and systematic process, which will reduce fragmentation in scope and sequence, unnecessary duplication, and irresponsible use of resources and materials.

The School Board expects the administration and faculty to evaluate the educational program as provided under the approved system for a goal-based curriculum and regularly to report findings to the Board, along with recommendations. These recommendations shall concern modifications of desired learning results, division or program goals, new courses or course content, resources, materials, and learning experiences. The Superintendent shall present new courses and new educational programs to the School Board for approval, as well as programs and courses that have extensive revisions or additions.

Adopted: January 9, 1997
Amended: July 1, 2005
Amended: September 17, 2015

Legal Ref.: [Code of Virginia](#), 1950, as amended, §§ [22.1-78](#), [22.1-199](#) through [22.1-243](#)

[8VAC20-131-10](#) et seq.