

Support effective curriculum and instruction

Curriculum and instruction are essential vehicles in delivering knowledge to students. While Pennsylvania has established standards of learning, the determination of curriculum utilization has, rightly, remained a local act. With input from administrators and teachers within their buildings, school boards select a curriculum they believe will best serve the needs of their students.

PSEA Recommendations

Provide guidance to local school districts, according to the following principles:

- All students should have access to a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that prepares them for full participation in a 21st century global society and a broad range of postsecondary options;
- At least one percent of each school entity budget should be designated for curriculum and instructional improvement such that instructional materials and equipment are provided in sufficient variety and quantity to serve all students;
- All curriculum development must be in collaboration with professional educators who take a primary role in designing, implementing, and assessing all instruction;
- Offer a voluntary model curriculum for school districts; and
- Stop all efforts to narrow students' curriculum and focus only or primarily on those subjects tested on standardized tests.

Educators should have input into curriculum

PSEA believes that teachers are best suited to develop and deliver appropriate instructional programs that are consistent with state curriculum standards. Direct observation of students and analysis of data by the teachers who work with the students must guide instructional decisions, and all educators and the members of the community – including students – must continuously evaluate their curriculum, keeping it ever sensitive to the development of basic skills and to the current and future needs of students. While programs such as focusing on scripted learning or pacing charts can serve as viable frames of reference, it is still incumbent on the teachers who work with the student to evaluate the efficacy of all instructional programs and to modify such programs when necessary in order to address the needs and facilitate the success of each student.

The Power of a Great Education: PSEA's 20/20 Vision for the Future



Each school entity should have a basic program of curriculum research and development with a significant amount, at least 1 percent, of its budget designated for curriculum and instructional improvement. Unfortunately, not all school districts have the resources available to them to create or deliver a comprehensive aligned curriculum for their students. For this reason, PSEA is supportive of the state's creation of a *voluntary* model curriculum available to all school districts across the Commonwealth. This model curriculum, currently being developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, will ensure that school boards, administrators and teachers have access to a curriculum that is aligned to state standards and provides the necessary materials for instruction to support student success.

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