

# THREE VILLAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STONY BROOK, NEW YORK

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA MATERIALS**

DATE OF BOARD MEETING: March 10, 2021

DATE SUBMITTED: March 5, 2021

**OFFICE OF ORIGIN: District Clerk** 

**CATEGORY OF ITEM: Information** 

TITLE: POLICY

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Be it RESOLVED that the Board of Education accept the Policies delineated below:

Policy #	Policy Title
0101	Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms
4000	Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines
4511	Textbook Selection and Adoption
8130	School Safety Plans and Teams
8131	Pandemic Planning
9700	Professional Learning and Staff Development

## **Background - Rationale:**

Adopt the Policies at the First Reading or move to Second Reading.

NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD; SUBJECT TO CHANGE

0101

#### GENDER NEUTRAL SINGLE-OCCUPANCY BATHROOMS

The District hereby designates all single occupancy restrooms located in its schools as gender-neutral. Such gender-neutral restrooms shall be clearly designated with signage on or near the entry door of each facility. The District shall remove signage from any and all existing single-occupancy restrooms which designate the restroom as "male" or "female". These signs shall be replaced with signage indicating the restroom is open to people of all genders. Existing single-occupant restrooms labeled as "unisex" may remain, and no additional signage is required.

All single-occupancy bathroom facilities in the district are designated as gender neutral. Signs designating gender neutral single-occupancy bathrooms must be posted on or near the entry door of that bathroom facility.

All single-occupant restrooms utilized by students in grades 6-12 shall have feminine hygiene products available. This requirement shall not apply to single-occupant restrooms designated for staff use only.

Ref: Education Law §409-m (single-occupancy bathrooms designated gender neutral)
Public Buildings Law §145(d)
N.Y. Public Health Law § 267

Adoption date:

4000

# STUDENT LEARNING STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDELINES

The Board of Education is committed to working with the Superintendent of Schools, district staff, parents and students to develop a quality educational program designed to prepare all students to to be college and/or career ready, so graduates can successfully meet the challenges of an economically competitive, technologically advanced, and culturally diverse, twenty first century. Therefore, the Board adopts the following learning objectives and instructional goals for all students in the district:

Standard 1: College and career readiness in reading marked by a steadily growing ability to discern more from and make fuller use of text, including making an increasing number of connections among ideas and between texts, considering a wider range of textual evidence, and becoming more sensitive to inconsistencies, ambiguities, and poor reasoning in text.

Standard 2: College and career readiness in writing, including the ability to plan, revise, edit and publish in a range of types of writing, such as argument, explanation and narrative.

Standard 3: College and career readiness in speaking and listening including skills necessary to make formal presentations. Students will learn to work together, express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from oral, visual, quantitative, and media sources, to evaluate what they hear, use media and visual displays strategically to help achieve communication, adapting speech to context and task.

Standard 4: College and career readiness in effective use of language, vocabulary and the essential rules of standard written and spoken English.

Standard 5: College and career readiness by achieving standards of mathematical practice characterized by the following abilities:

- 1. make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- 2. reason abstractly and quantitatively
- 3. construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- 4. model with mathematics
- 5. use appropriate tools strategically
- 6. attend to precision
- 7. look for and make use of patterns/structure
- 8. look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Standard 6: Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments and turning points in New York, United States, and world history; as well as understanding the United States constitution, the basic civil values of American democracy and the roles, rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues for participation.

Standard 7: Students will be able to use a language other than English for communication, and will demonstrate cross-cultural skills and understanding.

Standard 8: Students will actively engage in processes that constitute creation and performance in the arts (visual arts, music, dance and theater) and participate in various roles in the arts, as well as respond critically to a variety of works in the arts. Students will develop an understanding of the personal and cultural forces that shape art and how art shapes diverse cultures and past and present society.

Standard 9: Students will acquire the knowledge, skills and ability to establish and maintain physical fitness, participate in physical activity, maintain personal health; as well as create and maintain a safe and healthy environment using personal and community resources.

Standard 10: Students will be knowledgeable about the world of work, explore career options and relate personal skills, aptitudes and abilities to career decisions. Students will demonstrate mastery of the foundation skills and competencies essential for success in the work place.

To facilitate achievement of the Board's articulated learning objectives and instructional goals for all students, the District's administration and staff will be guided by the following:

- 1. All students will be subject to high academic standards and high academic performance expectations.
- 2. The district will implement measurable effective instructional strategies for maximizing the achievement of all students, and will review progress toward this on an annual basis.
- 3. The district will align its core academic subject curricula with the State learning standards, and offer appropriate and equitable support services to enable all students to succeed.
- 4. The same core academic subject curricula will be used in all schools district-wide.
- 5. The district will use multiple general education approaches, including response to intervention strategies in accordance with Commissioner's regulations, to improve the academic performance of all students.
- 6. Instructional and professional development activities will be coordinated to reduce student failure rates in core academic subjects at all grade levels.
- 7. Steps will be taken to identify and address the cause(s) of student drop-out, and to reduce the student drop-out rate.
- 8. The district will recruit, hire and retain highly qualified staff.
- 9. Staff professional development will be designed to enable achievement of the Board's articulated learning objectives and instructional goals.
- 10. The district will implement a process of on-going review to identify and address any obstacles to the achievement of the Board's articulated learning standards for the student body as a whole and for disaggregated subgroups.
- 11. The district will utilize culturally-responsive instructional practices, curriculum and assessments.
- 12. The district will offer multiple pathways to success toward college and career readiness.

Cross-Ref: 0000, Mission Statement and Vision

0105, Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity in Education

<u>Ref:</u> 8 NYCRR §§100.1(t);100.2 (ii)

Adoption date: December, 1991

Revised: November 9, 2010

4511

### TEXTBOOK SELECTION AND ADOPTION

The Board of Education is committed to the selection of quality curricular materials based on the philosophy that learners will have the opportunity to grow in their ability to find, generate, evaluate and apply information that helps them to function effectively as individuals and to participate fully in society.

It is the policy of the School District to provide a wide range of instructional materials at all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal. Materials should present different points of view in a balanced manner and allow for the review of allegedly inappropriate instructional materials through established procedures.

It should be understood that Board endorsement of a statement relating to the right or freedom to read does not infringe on the Board's right to determine the most appropriate materials to be acquired for school use.

The Board of Education recognizes that parents do not have the right to require that certain controversial books or curricular materials not be used or given to their children. The only exceptions are for students who may be excused from that part of the study of health that conflicts with their religious beliefs, and from instruction about AIDS.

Members of the community who object to the use of certain materials in the classroom may challenge the selection by following the process set forth in policy 1420, Complaints About Curricula, Instructional Materials.

To accomplish these objectives, the Board delegates its authority for the selection and designation of all textbooks to be used in the District schools to the professional personnel of the district as part of an ongoing curriculum development process. Final authority over approval of textbooks remains with the Board.

Texts, once approved by the Board, shall not be superseded for a period of five years except by a three-fourths vote (6 vote majority) of the Board, pursuant to §702 of the Education Law. The Superintendent shall establish procedures for the selection and recommendation of textbooks and a method for selecting staff members who shall serve in the selection and recommendation process.

A textbook is any book, or a book substitute, including hard-covered or paperback books, work books, or manuals, as well as any courseware or other content-based instructional materials in an electronic format, which students are required to use as a text, or a text-substitute, in a particular class or program in the school they legally attend.

The following criteria are to be considered in the selection of textbooks:

- 1. textbook or material should have been copyrighted within the past five years, except for literary works;
- 2. qualifications of the author(s) on the subject;
- 3. adaptability to existing instructional program;
- 4. accuracy of the information presented;
- 5. sufficient scope to meet the requirements of the curriculum as developed locally and approved by the State Education Department;
- 6. objectivity and impartiality in treatment of subject matter and freedom from bias and prejudice;
- 7. high quality format in respect to typography, arrangement of materials or pages, cover design, size and margins;
- 8. appropriateness to grade level as to reading level, vocabulary, sentence structure, and organization;
- 9. textbook series should meet grade-to-grade requirements. They should contain supplementary aids to learning, when desirable and necessary, such as a table of contents, introduction, study activities, exercises, questions, problems, selected references, bibliography, index glossary and appendices;
- 10. texts should include appropriate illustrative materials--pictures, maps, charts, graphs, diagrams, etc., which clarify the text and enrich the content;
- 11. materials should fairly represent the many ethnic and cultural groups and their contribution to American heritage and the fields of history, the arts, mathematics, and science, particularly those groups which have been historically marginalized; and
- 12. a reasonable balance of viewpoints regarding controversial issues should be presented.

The following criteria are to be considered in the selection of literary works for classroom use in teaching literature, as well as the assignment of such works to particular grade levels:

- 1. use of compositional and contextual concepts which contribute to the reader's critical and appreciative understanding of the work;
- 2. sophisticated use of literary devices (i.e., metaphor, point of view, tone) to further student understanding of written concepts;
- 3. levels of pupil maturity and experience necessary for empathic reading of literature;
- 4. capacity of a work to capture pupil interest;
- 5. thematic treatment which promotes sound and healthy values for students;
- 6. intrinsic qualities that establish a work as a significant part of the literary heritage;
- 7. inclusion in the body of works as a whole characters and settings which reflect the racial, ethnic, cultural and religious makeup of the student body and the country as a whole;
- 8. promotion of understanding and appreciation of culture, class, language, race, ethnicity and other differences that contribute to the diversity of American culture; and
- 9. variety to avoid duplication of theme, plot, setting, etc., unless such duplication affords opportunities for comparison and contrast or serves to reinforce understanding.

<u>Cross-ref</u>: 1420, Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Materials

Ref: Education Law §§701 et seq.; 1711: 2508; 2566

Adoption date: December, 1991

Revised: August 24, 2010

8130

#### SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS AND TEAMS

Emergencies and violent incidents in schools are critical issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to adopt and keep current a comprehensive district wide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plan(s) which address violence prevention, crisis intervention, emergency response and management.

Taken together, the district-wide and building level plans shall provide a comprehensive approach to addressing school safety and violence prevention, and provide the structure where all individuals can fully understand their roles and responsibilities for promoting the safety of the entire school community. The plans will be designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents and emergencies and to facilitate the district's coordination with local and county resources. The plans will also address risk reduction/prevention, response and recovery with respect to a variety of types of emergencies and violent incidents in district schools, and will address school closures and continuity of operations in the context of epidemics/pandemics including protocols for responding to a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease, in either the plans themselves or in addenda to the plans.

In accordance with state law and regulation, the district will have the following safety teams and plans to deal with violence prevention, crisis intervention and emergency response and management:

#### Comprehensive District-Wide School Safety Team and Plan

The Board will annually appoint a district-wide school safety team that includes, but is not be limited to, a representative from the following constituencies: the Board, teachers, administrators, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel. This team is responsible for the development and annual review of the comprehensive district-wide school safety plan. The plan will cover all district school buildings and will address violence prevention (taking into consideration a range of programs and approaches that are designed to create a positive school climate and culture), crisis intervention, emergency response and management including communication protocols, at the district level, and protocols for responding to a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease. It will include all those elements required by law and regulation.

The Board may also appoint a student representative to the district-wide school safety team. However, no confidential building-level emergency response plans will be shared with the student member, nor will the student member be present during discussion of any confidential building-level emergency response plans, or confidential portions of the district- wide emergency response strategy.

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee will be the district's chief emergency officer, and shall coordinate communication between school staff and law enforcement and first responders. The chief emergency officer will ensure that all staff understand the district-wide school safety plan, and receive training on the building-level emergency response plan, violence prevention and mental health, and will also ensure that the district-wide and building-level plans are completed, reviewed annually, and updated as needed by the designated dates. The Chief Emergency Officer will ensure that the district-wide plan is coordinated with the building-level plans, and will ensure that required evacuation and lock-down drills are conducted.

#### Building-Level Emergency Response Plans and Teams

Each Building Principal is responsible for annually appointing a building-level emergency response team that includes representation from teachers, administrators, parent organizations, school safety personnel, other school personnel, law enforcement officials, fire officials and other emergency response agencies. The emergency response team is responsible for the development and review of a building-level emergency response plan for each district building. The plan(s) will address response to emergency situations, such as those requiring evacuation, sheltering and lock-down at the building level and will include all components required by law and regulation. These confidential plans will include evacuation routes, shelter sites, medical needs, transportation and emergency notification of parents and guardians.

Building-level emergency response plans will include protocols in response to carbon monoxide alarms or detection. Alarm or detection of carbon monoxide will result in the appropriate actions as described by the emergency response plan.

Building-level emergency response plans must designate:

- an emergency response team for incidents that includes appropriate school personnel, law enforcement officials, fire officials, and representatives from local, regional and/or state emergency response agencies to assist the school community in responding to a serious violent incident or emergency; and
- a post-incident response team that includes appropriate school personnel, medical personnel, mental health counselors and other related personnel to assist the community in coping with the aftermath of a serious violent incident or emergency.

The Building Principal is responsible for conducting at least one test every school year of the emergency response procedures under this plan including procedures for sheltering and early dismissal.

To maintain security and in accordance with law, the building-level emergency response plan(s) are confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law or any other law.

#### Threat Assessment Teams

The Building Principal, in consultation with the Superintendent and the Chief Emergency Officer, will annually designate a threat assessment team to provide ongoing support and information in order to identify, and assess individuals who may be potential threats to safety, with the intent of minimizing acts of violence in the school community. The threat assessment team will be composed of, but not limited to, the following personnel from both within the school and the larger community, as appropriate: building administrators, legal counsel, the medical director and/or school nurse, school counselors, local mental health and social service providers, law enforcement, school resource officers, security personnel, and facilities and maintenance personnel. The team will meet regularly. The team will be mindful of the need for discretion and observance of confidentiality requirements.

Students will be encouraged to bring their concerns to any district employee. If a district employee becomes aware of a threat to the school community, they must inform the Building Principal, who will convene the threat assessment team. The Building Principal may request the participation of the following additional individuals who may have specific knowledge of the potential perpetrator: supervisors, teachers, students and parents. The Building Principal is responsible for keeping the Superintendent informed about the activities of the threat assessment team. Threat assessment team members will receive appropriate training.

## Annual Review and Reporting

All building level plans will be annually reviewed and updated, if necessary, by the appropriate team by October 1<sup>st</sup>. In conducting the review, the teams will consider any changes in organization, local conditions and other factors including an evaluation of the results of the annual test of the emergency response procedures which may necessitate updating of plans. If the plan requires no changes, then it will remain in effect. If the district-wide plan requires change, then the updated plan will be submitted to the Board of Education in time to allow 30 days of public comment and to hold a public hearing which provides for the participation of school personnel, students and other interested parties prior to Board adoption. The district wide safety plans must be adopted by the Board of Education by September 1.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for submitting the district-level school safety plan and any amendments to the plan to the Commissioner within 30 days after its adoption, but no later than October 1 of each year. The district-wide plan will be posted on the district's website. The Chief Emergency Officer will be responsible for filing the building-level emergency response plans for each building and any amendments to the plans with the appropriate local law enforcement agency and the state police within 30 days after adoption, but no later than October 1 of each year.

Cross-ref: 0115, Bullying and Harassment Prevention and

Intervention 5300, Code of Conduct

9700, Staff Development

Ref: Education Law §2801-a (school safety plans)

Executive Law §2B (state and local natural and manmade disaster

preparedness) 8 NYCRR Part 155 (Educational Facilities)

19 NYCRR §1228.4 (carbon monoxide detection)

School Safety Plans Guidance, New York State Education Department, June

December, 1991 (Emergency Plans)

Revised: July 13, 2016

August 24, 2016

8131

#### PANDEMIC PLANNING

The Board of Education recognizes the public's concern over the possibility of a contagious disease outbreak and acknowledges that it is in the best interests of its students, employees and the community to prepare for such a scenario. To this end, the Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to:

- 1. Implement infection prevention control procedures that could help limit the spread of contagious diseases at schools in the district, including but not limited to:
- encouraging, through classroom instruction at every grade level and posters, good
  hygiene habits recommended by public health experts to help protect the school
  community from contagious diseases (e.g., washing hands frequently with soap and
  water, coughing/sneezing into tissues or the crook of the elbow instead of one's hand,
  utilizing alcohol-based/waterless hygiene products and avoiding shaking hands);
- providing a description of warning signs and symptoms of contagious diseases infections and instruct parents and employees that students and staff displaying such symptoms should not report to school;
- providing sufficient and accessible infection prevention supplies including soap, alcohol-based/waterless hygiene products, tissues and receptacles for their disposal;
- following the recommendations of federal, state and local authorities regarding properly cleaning and sanitizing the schools.
- 2. Work with school administrators, district medical personnel, local county health representatives, teachers, guidance counselors, and other staff and parent representatives as appropriate, to prepare, as part of the district's existing emergency/safety plan, a contagious disease preparedness plan. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to:
- Describing the potential impact of an outbreak on student learning (such as student and staff absences), school closing, school trips, and extracurricular activities based on having various levels of illness among students and staff and the alternative means of delivering education (e.g., educating students through the Internet, long-distance learning, sending assignments home, telephone conference calls, etc.), along with plans to assess student progress once school resumes.
- Ensuring continuity of meal programs during school closure, which may involve utilizing school vehicles or satellite pickup points.
- Establishing procedures for caring for, isolating, and/or transporting students who become ill with contagious diseases while in school.
- Establishing liberal, non-punitive attendance policies for students unique to an outbreak of contagious diseases.
- Developing a process for gathering and analyzing the latest information and recommendations from health experts (for example, from the Centers for Disease Control, the New York State Health Department, the County Health Department, etc.) which will inform district policymakers' decisions.
- Developing a process for communicating information concerning the outbreak of

contagious diseases to the school community on a continuing basis. Such efforts may include preparing an information letter for distribution to parents and guardians of students advising them of the dangers of contagious diseases and the steps that may be taken to reduce the risk of infection, and/or establishing a section on the district's website to communicate information about the district's policy concerning contagious diseases and links to relevant governmental websites.

- Coordinating the district's plan with the local and state health departments as well as the State Education Department and area BOCES.
- Assigning responsibility for the activities listed above to appropriate staff.
- 3. Facilitate discussions with all negotiating units representing employees of the district to determine whether it is appropriate to consider opening up negotiations for the limited purpose of bargaining over the inclusion in collective bargaining agreements of provisions related to sick time and absences on the part of employees, who have been either diagnosed as having contracted contagious diseases that has caused the outbreak or who have family members who have contracted the contagious diseases that has caused the outbreak.

In the event that the district implements its emergency plan in response to a pandemic, the Superintendent shall keep the Board regularly informed regarding any actions taken and information gathered.

Cross-ref:

5100, Student Attendance5420, Student Health Services8130, School Safety Plans and Teams

Adoption Date:

9700

#### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education believes that staff training and development help ensure the success of educational programs and improve the efficiency of the district. Therefore, the district will provide development opportunities to staff to increase their effectiveness and job performance. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for implementing and administering staff development programs for the district's employees.

#### Administrators

All administrators in the school district not otherwise covered by this policy will receive appropriate training and professional development in accordance with law, regulation or any applicable collective bargaining agreement. The Superintendent will be responsible for providing such training and development.

#### Teachers and Leaders

All teachers and leaders (i.e., holders of school building leader, school district leader, and school district business leader certificates) will be provided with opportunities for professional growth directly related to student learning in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining agreement and the district's Professional Learning Plan. Level III teaching assistants and long-term substitute teachers (employed for more than 40 days in a school year) will have the opportunity to participate in the district's professional learning program.

The district's Professional Learning Plan, which may be a multi-year plan, will include all items required by the Commissioner's regulations, including but not limited to the following:

- A needs analysis, goals, objectives, strategies, activities and evaluation standards for professional learning in the district and a description of how the district will provide all teachers substantial professional learning activities directly related to student learning needs identified in school report cards and other sources.
- A description of how the district provides teachers and leaders with opportunities directly related to student learning outcomes identified in the district's report card and other sources, and a description of how professional learning in educator practice and curriculum development are culturally responsive and reflect the needs of the community.
- A description of how the professional learning provided will align with New York standards
  and assessments, student needs, including linguistic, cultural diversity and special needs, and
  will include culturally appropriate and responsive practices. Activities must be articulated
  across grade levels and subject areas and show how they will be provided and measured in a
  continuous manner.

- A description of how it will provide teachers, leaders, and Level III teaching assistants with opportunities to maintain their certificate in good standing by successfully completing 100 hours of professional learning every five years.
- A mentoring program to provide support for new teachers and leaders in order to ease the transition from teacher and leader preparation to practice, thereby increasing retention of teachers and leaders in the public schools, and to increase the skills of new teachers in order to improve student achievement.
- Unless granted an exemption by the Commissioner of Education, a description of how the district will provide professional learning to teachers, leaders, and Level III teaching assistants to address the needs of English Language Learners.

The Board will establish a Professional Learning Team to review and revise the district's Professional Learning Plan annually. The Board will appoint members to the team at the first regular Board meeting in September.

The Professional Learning Team shall meet on or before October 1. The Superintendent or designee will serve as the chair of the team and will be responsible for ensuring the timely review and revision of the district's Professional Learning Plan.

The Professional Learning Team will submit any recommended revisions to the Professional Learning Plan to the Board by April 1. The Board will consider the recommendations at its first regular meeting thereafter. The Board may accept or reject the recommendations of the team in whole or in part. The Board may also request any additional information or data needed to evaluate the success of the program in achieving its objectives.

Any further changes in the plan must be submitted to the Board by June 1. The Board will consider and act on the revised plan by June 30th. The Board reserves the right to make changes to the revised plan.

#### Other Professional Staff and Support Staff

The district will provide staff development activities for other professional staff and support staff within the financial constraints of the district budget and in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements.

#### Other Staff Development Opportunities

The Board recognizes that many staff development opportunities are provided through non-school district sources. Within budgetary restraints, district employees may attend conferences, workshops, study councils, in-service courses, summer study grants, school visitations, and other relevant staff development opportunities.

Released time and reimbursement for such activities will be available upon approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee and in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements. The Superintendent may establish regulations pursuant to this policy to establish the circumstances under which such released time and reimbursement may be available. Staff members who attend such activities will be required to prepare a report or summary of the activity attended.

Cross-ref: 9420, Staff Evaluation

Ref: Education Law §§ 3006-a (required hours); 3604(8) (Superintendent Conference days) 8 NYCRR §§ 80-6.3 (required hours); 100.2(o)(2)(iii)(b)(5) (required training on conducting staff evaluations); 100.2(dd) (Professional Learning Plans); 154-2.3(k) (professional learning related to the needs of English Language Learners)

Adoption date:

Revised: March 14, 2018

August 22, 2018