MONITORING CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Supervision of curriculum and instruction can be an effective tool for improving teaching and learning. It is also a way to ensure that the curriculum is being taught. The primary responsibility for day-to-day monitoring of teaching practices belongs to the building principal. An effective principal assesses teaching practices, monitors newly implemented instructional strategies, probes the causes of instructional challenges that inhibit student learning, and initiates needed modifications and support to improve teaching.

Monitoring must be systemic and occur at all levels to ensure that the district (Board-adopted) curriculum is being implemented in the way the school district has established. It is important that the district clearly communicates student outcomes, programs, and practices in order to bring about the desired student learning. District-wide written documents must clearly delineate the roles of district staff, principals, assistant principals, and any other instructional support staff in monitoring curriculum.

The building principal is key to the implementation of sound curriculum management practices in an individual school. Additionally, the principal serves as a conduit to provide District information to building staff and to inform the District staff accurately about building efforts. The principal's expertise and willingness to manage curriculum at the building level provides the impetus for effective practice throughout the school. It is the responsibility of the central administration to provide the needed resources, professional development, and on-going assistance to support the efforts of building principals, as they monitor the implementation of curriculum and work to improve teaching.

Assessment is a useful tool to aid in making needed modifications in curriculum and instruction. The principal in conjunction with team leaders, department chairs, and District staff, shall identify the learning needs of students by analyzing both formative and summative assessment results.

Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (2010).
34 C.F.R. pt. 98 (2010).
Iowa Code §§ 216.9, 256.7, 279.8, 280.3 (2013).
281 I.A.C. 12.8.

Cross Ref.: 602.1 Curriculum Development

ADOPTED: 2/9/04

Reviewed: 1/8/04, 5/7/09, 11/6/14