

## CURRICULUM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Program planning and development is a continuous process. It has direct bearing on all the learning experiences provide by the school. It concerns itself with the formulation and refinement of philosophy and goals and the selection of content and method. A structure for total curriculum development must provide for continuous evaluation of all aspects of the school program as well as encourage constructive innovation. The School Committee should be kept informed of the work of the various program planning groups. The following are proposed as guidelines for efforts in program planning and development:

1. Present practices or proposed changes must be viewed in terms of the effect on the educational welfare of pupils. There should be continuity of learning from one year to the next; there should be consistency of educational program at the same level in different schools.
2. As educational leaders in the school district, administrators have a major role in initiating study projects and making program decisions.
3. All suggestions for curriculum study should be given consideration; projects started should be completed; recommendations should be acted upon and, if approved, should be put into effect within a reasonable period of time.
4. Opportunities should exist for a full discussion of issues and a free flow of ideas. Identification of a problem or a need for study can come from any source, from any individual group.
5. Persons should be assigned to councils, commissions, and study committees on the basis of qualifications and interest. Consideration should be given to the total load of professional assignments given one person. The efforts of groups which meet voluntarily to promote better programs in their areas should also be recognized.
6. Persons affected by a curriculum policy or change should share in the formulation of that policy or change before implementation.
7. The necessary time and resources should be given to program study groups to insure successful completion of their assignments.
8. It should be understood implementation of a new program is dependent upon School Committee approval and that such approval becomes "real" when provision is made for the program in the school budget.

Adopted: July 18, 1977

SOURCE: Mansfield