

Holliston Public Schools



CURRICULUM REVIEW GUIDE

"To develop learners, one must be a learner."

MISSION

The Holliston Public Schools are committed to providing the resources and opportunities that will enable each student to develop and maximize individual potential in a positive and collaborative environment that encourages and affirms academic achievement and personal excellence.

VISION

Our goal is to graduate confident, critical thinkers, productive and creative lifelong learners, and socially responsible, engaged citizens who are capable of adapting to change in a technologically advanced and multicultural society. We will accomplish this by:

- Creating a challenging and desirable learning environment for students and staff
- Strongly supporting instructional innovation
- Establishing and fulfilling high expectations of scholarship
- Exceeding all federal and state accountability measures for student achievement
- Expanding educational partnerships within the community and region
- Preparing students for success in a dynamic, multi-faceted world

BELIEFS

We Believe In:

- An emotionally and physically safe school environment
- Instruction that is responsive to student needs and learning styles
- Class sizes and resources that best support instruction and the curriculum
- Recruitment and retention of high quality teachers, administrators and support staff
- Relevant student assessments to measure individual growth, identify individual needs and inform individual instruction
- Appropriate use of technology to enhance teaching and learning, and support the efficient management of district resources
- Collaboration in learning which engages family and community
- Effective interactive communication among all stakeholders
- The importance of being recognized as a community with superior schools
- Diverse extracurricular and cultural enrichment offerings available to all students
- Promotion of tolerance and respect by understanding and appreciating individual differences

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A sincere appreciation is extended to the members of our Curriculum Development Committee.

Placentino Staff:	Allison Lindstrom	- ELA/SS Specialist
	Therese Stewart	- Assistant Principal
	Linda Weene	- Principal
Miller Staff:	Kathleen Balcom	- ELA/SS Specialist
	Diane Crefeld	- Elementary Spanish Teacher
	David Keim	- Principal
	Lynne Newman	- Assistant Principal
	Margo Spinale	- Grade 4 Teacher
Adams Staff:	Virginia Caruso	- Coordinator for Standards-based Instruction
	Jessica Huizenga	- Principal
	Dyann Rice	- 8 th Grade Social Studies Teacher
High School Staff:	Sylvia Bodmer	- Science Department Leader
	Heidi Finnegan	- English Teacher
	Jennifer MacFarland	- Social Studies Teacher
	Paula O'Brien	- Social Studies Teacher
District Staff:	Therese Caccavale	- World Language Coordinator
	Timothy Cornely	- Assistant Superintendent
	Kathleen Dooley	- Director of Technology
	Patricia Rourke	- Math Specialist PK-8

INTRODUCTION

The Holliston Public Schools' District Strategic Plan calls for a five-year plan for the review and improvement of all curriculum areas. Guidelines for the curriculum review include:

- Examining the current program of studies/curriculum for a content area
- Clarifying student learning goals
- Updating curriculum based on global progress and technology
- Identifying curriculum redundancies and omissions
- Ensuring vertical PreK-12 alignment for all curriculum
- Differentiating between essential versus non-essential student learning goals through the development of power standards

Such a guide is necessary to provide the review committee with a consistent process to:

- Define the expectations for student learning
- Analyze current curriculum units
- Utilize a common curriculum template to assure coherence and alignment of all curricular areas with the most up-to-date release of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks
- Review the data from common formative and standardized assessments
- Organize skills and concepts by grade/course
- Research best practices in education
- Identify priorities for student learning
- Determine professional development needs for staff

A district-wide curriculum council will be appointed to oversee the consistent, uniform, and coherent delivery of curriculum, instruction and assessment PreK-12. This council will also be responsible for establishing timelines for reviewing, revising, and implementing recommendations for curriculum.

Based on the aforementioned guidelines, council members will develop a discipline-based philosophy and instructional approach to curriculum.

Consistent with the practices of a professional learning community, a committee of administrators, elementary, middle, and high school teachers was formed in the spring of 2006 to recommend the components for this curriculum review process.

Introduction

- **PreK-12 approach** - the review will focus on what students need to know and be able to do from entry level through graduation
- **PreK-12 committee** - staff representation from all grade levels and content-related disciplines from elementary, middle, and high schools
- **Statement of purpose** - the review committee examines current curricula and instructional practices in order to assure the delivery of a viable and guaranteed district-wide curriculum
- **Decision making process** - consensus recommendations of the review committee are presented to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Process

- **System cycle timeline** - review and improve all curriculum areas between 2007-2012
- **Data Collection** - collect data and information
 - Survey key stakeholders in the Holliston School Community
 - Review National and State Standards
 - Research best practices in each discipline
 - Collaborate and consult with experts in the field
- **Position Statement** - philosophy and methodologies of the content area
- **Examine existing curriculum**
 - Review the intended, taught, and attained curricula
 - Review learning goals, pacing guides, benchmarks, and assessments
 - Review curriculum maps, aligning curricula to national, state, and local standards
 - Review the use of technology to enhance instruction
- **Document findings/recommendations** – note findings relative to the analysis of the existing curricula based on the data gathered and research in the field; write recommendations for improvement

Content of Curriculum Review Publication

- Philosophy of content area
- Statement of best practices in the content area
- Documentation of findings about our curriculum
- Recommendations for improvements
- Suggested time table for improvements and changes to curriculum and instruction
- Professional development options and recommendations; list of necessary resources
- Plan for developing essential (power) standards
- Budget recommendations
- Glossary of terms