

SELECTION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS, STRATEGIES, AND PROGRAMS

While all instructional staff is required to teach the curriculum approved by the Regional School Board, methods of delivering the curriculum in the classroom shall generally be determined by instructional staff with the director's approval in consultation with the assistant directors or director's designee. For purposes of this policy, such curriculum delivery methods in the classroom shall be referred to as instructional methods or strategies. The director, the assistant directors, or the director's designee may require or prohibit any instructional method or strategy, as deemed necessary.

Where one or more instructional methods and/or strategies are implemented as a part of a systemic, school-wide improvement effort that involves a significant investment of school resources, such instructional methods and/or strategies shall together constitute an instructional program. Instructional programs shall be approved by the Regional School Board, upon the director's recommendation, prior to the initiation of major planning efforts including pilot programs. The director, the assistant directors, or the director's designee shall approve other school improvement efforts that are not instructional programs under this policy and shall keep the Regional School Board informed of such efforts on a regular basis.

Instructional methods, strategies, and programs shall be:

- linked to a data-supported need or needs of students;
- compatible with the approved curriculum;
- research-based;
- consistent with best educational practices;
- appropriate to the developmental level of the students; and,
- consistent with and supportive of the school's improvement plan

In addition, the school's Department of Technology shall be consulted prior to purchasing or initiating major planning efforts relating to instructional methods, strategies, and programs that require technological support.

Instructional methods, strategies, and programs shall be regularly monitored for effectiveness by the school. The Regional School Board will be notified of the effectiveness of instructional programs. Monitoring shall include the analysis of educational data relating to groups of students as well as individual students, as appropriate, and shall focus on whether instructional methods, strategies, and/or programs used in school enhance student achievement and/or students' readiness for learning.

Where an instructional method or strategy fails to meet expectations for student achievement or is otherwise deemed to be insufficient, the director shall intervene.. Intervention may include, but not be limited to, discontinuing an unsuccessful instructional method or strategy; implementing a replacement method or strategy; requiring additional data monitoring and analysis; and/or requiring specialized professional development.

Where an instructional program fails to meet expectations for student achievement or is otherwise deemed to be insufficient, the director may work with the assistant directors, or the director's designee to intervene. Intervention may include, but not be limited to, making adjustments to the implementation of an unsuccessful instructional program; requiring additional data monitoring and analysis; requiring specialized professional development, and/or recommending that the Regional School Board discontinue and/or replace an unsuccessful instructional program.

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