

AMHERST Policy

IJOC - VOLUNTEERS

The District recognizes the valuable contribution made to the total school program through the volunteer assistance of parents and other citizens. In working with volunteers, a District staff shall clearly explain the volunteer's responsibility.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing and implementing procedures for the utilization of volunteers. The selection of volunteers will be consistent with those policies and procedures under the direction of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The voluntary help of citizens should be requested by staff through administrative channels to assist in conducting selected activities and/or to serve as resource persons.

Volunteers should only function under supervision of a school employee.

Designated Volunteers

Designated volunteers will be required to undergo a background investigation and a criminal records check. "Designated volunteer" means any volunteer who:

1. Comes in direct contact with pupils on a daily basis;
2. Meets with students on a one-on-one basis;
3. Any other volunteer so designated by the School Board or Superintendent.

Designated volunteers are subject to the provisions of Policy GBCD – Background Investigation and Criminal Records Check.

Coaches

Volunteer coaches of individual sports must be certified in that sport and be in compliance with the standards set by NHIAA.

Legal Reference:

RSA 189:13-a, School Employee Volunteer Background Investigations

ADOPTED: June 5, 2008

AMHERST Policy

IKB - HOMEWORK

Homework is a constructive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs and abilities of students. Purposeful assignments not only enhance student achievement, but also develop self-discipline and associated good working habits. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized, must be viewed as purposeful to the students; and should be evaluated and returned to students in a timely manner.

Teachers may give homework to students to aid in the student's educational development. Homework should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience, and should not be assigned for disciplinary purposes.

A teacher shall carefully explain to his/her students how homework assignments relate to the grading system.

Regulatory Reference:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.14 (b) Basic Instructional Standards

ADOPTED: June 5, 2008

AMHERST Policy

IKE - PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

The Superintendent and the building principals shall develop rules for the promotion and retention of students, and the rules shall have the approval of the Board. These rules shall be published in the Parent-Student Handbook.

Legal Reference:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.14(d), Basic Instructional Standards

ADOPTED: May 8, 2008

AMHERST Policy

IL - EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

The Superintendent will evaluate the instructional programs annually in accordance with Board policies and state guidelines. S/he shall have the responsibility to report annually to the Board on the progress the District is making towards the attainment of its educational goals.

Legal Reference:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306:24(c) (4), Assessment

ADOPTED: June 5, 2008

AMHERST Policy

ILBA - ASSESSMENT

It is the policy of the Board that the Superintendent will develop and manage an assessment program that provides ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of the curriculum on improving student performance. The program must adhere to the processes for selection, administration, and interpretation of assessment instruments specified below. This program will include both local and statewide assessment tools. The program must be aligned with the goals of the School District and be designed to assess each student's progress toward meeting the defined curriculum objectives.

Definitions

For the purposes of assessment of high school course work through the demonstration of student mastery of course competencies, the following definitions are established:

Course Level Competency: the expected content, concepts, and skills to be mastered in a course.

Competency Assessment: the process by which a student demonstrates sufficient evidence of learning.

Mastery: a student presenting sufficient evidence of attainment of the required competencies.

Test Results

Test results will be analyzed and used with other data for the following purposes:

- To identify individual student strengths and weaknesses in skill development;
- To diagnose strengths and weaknesses of groups;
- To individualize instruction;
- To report progress to parents;
- To select curriculum materials;
- To set the pace of instruction;
- To select methods of instruction;
- To counsel students;
- To help determine revisions needed in the curriculum.

Selection

The selection process will include the professional staff in its efforts to investigate new assessment tools and evaluate existing ones. Assessment instruments selected will provide an authentic assessment of student learning outcomes through multiple formative and summative assessment instruments including, but not limited to teacher observation

of project-based learning, including off-site learning projects; competency-based assessments; and teacher-designed quizzes and tests. Additional instruments may include written examinations, oral examinations, alternative questions, demonstrations, writing exercises, individual projects, group projects, performances, student portfolios, and samples of student's best works.

Administration

The assessment program will include a schedule for administration to students, distributed to staff and the board before the start of each school year.

Each building principal will provide assurance that test procedures are followed at the school level including the distribution and collection of test materials, test security, use of test results and testing dates as well as other pertinent requirements. Readiness assessment shall be administered to all children entering first grade. Handicapped students must be provided the opportunity to participate in all student assessments. Any modifications in administration should be made and documented during the Individualized Education Program (IEP) review.

Interpretation

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that data from the student assessment program is compiled, analyzed, summarized, and reported to the Board annually. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for the scores of individual students and they shall be made available only to appropriate personnel within the school in which the student is enrolled and to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each student as provided by law. Interpretation of test results shall be made available to parents and students.

The Board will provide funding for the student assessment program, including professional development for teachers in the use of tools to understand assessment results, to adjust instruction to meet personalized needs of students, and to monitor progress.

The Superintendent will provide an ongoing evaluation of the assessment program, and will provide regular reports to the Board showing the effectiveness of the curriculum on improving student performance.

Legal Reference:

*RSA 193-C, Statewide Education Improvement and Assessment Program
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.24, Assessment*

ADOPTED: June 5, 2008

IMAH - HEALTH EDUCATION - DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Board recognizes that developmentally appropriate daily physical activity, exercise and physical education are ways to minimize health risks created by chronic inactivity, childhood obesity, and other related health problems. Physically active students come to school more ready to learn and are more likely to achieve their academic potential. Emphasis on physical activity in school children, during school and after school hours, can help children build lifetime health, mental health, and social well-being, and prevent adverse health consequences that include childhood obesity, cardiovascular disease, stroke, osteoporosis and Type 2 Diabetes. The Board recommends that students and staff participate in developmentally appropriate physical activity and exercise at for at least 30 to 60 minutes each day as a way to minimize these health risks. “Developmentally appropriate daily physical activity” means physical activity that is suitable for the cognitive age and individual characteristics of students.

In order to achieve this level of physical activity, the Board recommends the following practices:

- (1) Encourage parents/guardians to support their children's participation in enjoyable physical activities, and recognize that parents/guardians act as role models for active lifestyles;
- (2) Support special programs such as student and staff walking programs, family fitness events, and events that emphasize life-long physical activity;
- (3) Integrate health and physical activity across the school curriculum;
- (4) Encourage student-initiated activities that promote inclusive physical activity on a school-wide basis;
- (5) Commit adequate resources that include program funding, personnel, safe equipment, and facilities;
- (6) Provide professional development opportunities for all school staff that will assist them to effectively promote enjoyable and lifelong physical activity among youth, and that will assist school staff to recognize their influence as role models for active lifestyles;
- (7) Establish relationships with community recreation and youth sports programs and agencies to coordinate and complement physical activity programs;
- (8) Encourage physical activity recess periods; and
- (9) Institute a tracking and evaluation method to ensure that all students are engaging in developmentally appropriate daily physical activity.

The developmentally appropriate daily physical activity shall be in addition to and shall not be a replacement for the required physical education program.

This Policy shall be communicated to students, staff, and parents.

Legal References:

RSA 189:11-a, Food and Nutrition Programs

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 310, Appropriate Daily Physical Activity

ADOPTED: December 6, 2007