ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

REGARDING: **Superintendent's Committee for K-12 Science**

Section: **Superintendent's Committees**

Effective Date: December 2011

Reissued:

See Also:

Background

Abington School District has a strong tradition in science instruction. The program has featured research-based programs at the elementary, junior, and senior high levels and has included many options for students to take Advanced Placement courses and science electives at the senior high school level.

In 2010 the Pennsylvania Department of Education issued revised requirements for high school graduation, which will take effect in 2015. These requirements include the successful completion of a course and passing a Keystone Exam in biology. In preparation for addressing these new requirements, the Abington School District Superintendent's Committee for Secondary Curriculum for the 21st Century began its work in the fall of 2010. The committee's charge included the task to review the district's secondary course curricula to determine the alignment with the PDE-issued blueprints for the proposed Keystone Exams and with the Common Core Standards. As a result of the committee's work, it was determined that biology will continue to be a required course for all ninth grade students, and this course will be designed to prepare students to be successful on the Keystone Biology Exam. However, there is also a recommendation to review the curriculum and instruction for science in grades K through 12 to ensure that all students are prepared to take the science PSSA in grade 4 and in grade 8, as well as to be prepared to take the Keystone Exam in biology in grade 9 and have an opportunity at the senior high school level to continue the study of science in rigorous courses and/or to complete required Keystone Exam remediation and/or projects.

Therefore, there is a need to create a K-12 Science Committee to review the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Science and Technology and for Environment and Ecology, the Common Core State Standards, the Assessment Anchors for the PSSA, the blueprint information for the Keystone Biology Exam, and the pre-requisites for success in science-based AP courses. Based on this information, the committee is asked to

recommend appropriate instructional textbooks and materials where needed and to propose an implementation plan for the new materials.

Committee Charge

The Superintendent's Committee for K-12 Science is established to undertake a comprehensive review of current issues and requirements and to make recommendations with regard to instructional materials and a plan for implementation. In the formulation of its recommendations, the committee is directed to consider:

- Chapter 4 mandates, Pennsylvania's Academic Standards, and Pennsylvania's Assessment Anchors for all areas of science
- PDE's new graduation requirements and the related blueprints for the biology Keystone Exam
- The Common Core State Standards
- National standards published for science
- Developments in research related to science curriculum and instruction that identify "best" practices" for curriculum and instruction
- Technology as a tool for teaching and learning in science instruction
- The need for staff development
- Review Abington School District PSSA science and Keystone biology results

Committee Membership

Dr. James Melchor (Chair)	Assistant Director of Curriculum
Ms. Doretta Agostine	Science Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Ms. Denise Benz	Mathematics Teacher, Abington Junior High School
Mr. Matthew Brenner	Teacher, McKinley Elementary School and AEA Representative
Ms. Greta Brunchweiler	Community Member
Ms. Kimberly Campbell	Special Education Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Mr. Jeffrey Chou	Teacher, Highland Elementary School
Dr. Kelly Doyle	Supervisor of Communication Arts
Mr. Leigh Duncan	Elementary Curriculum Specialist, Overlook Elementary School
Ms. Margo Eberman	Teacher, Overlook Elementary School
Dr. Kathleen Fadigan	Community Member

Dr. Jeffrey Fecher	Principal, Abington Senior High School
Ms. Shelley Ferguson	Teacher, Copper Beech Elementary School
Ms. Ashley Garrett	Teacher, Rydal Elementary School
Ms. Stephanie Grande	Science Teacher, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Lisa Hazelwood	Teacher, McKinley Elementary School
Ms. Susan Herrmann	Teacher, Willow Hill Elementary School
Dr. Marianne Kaemmer	Principal, Highland Elementary School
Mr. Daniel Kaye	Board of School Directors Representative
Mr. Timothy Keller	Science Department Chair, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Marie Kim	Assistant Principal, Copper Beech Elementary School
Mr. Jonathan Kovaleski	Assistant Principal, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Francine Lee-Kim	Teacher, Highland Elementary School
Ms. Rebecca Liddle	Teacher, Roslyn Elementary School
Ms. Denise Mendez	Coordinator of Elementary Science
Mr. Bradley Palmer	Science Department Chair, Abington Senior High School
Mr. Joshua Perlman	Teacher, Copper Beech Elementary School
Ms. Jennifer Peszek	Coordinator of Elementary Special Education
Brittany Rampersad	Student
Michael Rubin	Student
Ms. Mary Ryan	Teacher, Copper Beech Elementary School
Ms. Edith Sabach	Teacher, Rydal Elementary School
Mr. Wayne Scattergood	Science Teacher, Abington Junior High School
Mr. Todd Schaible	Parent
Mr. Michael Staszkiw	Teacher, Roslyn Elementary School
Mr. Edward Steinhardt	Science Teacher, Abington Junior High School
Mrs. Michele Tinsman	Board of School Directors Representative
Andy Tran	Student
Ms. Stephanie Viola	Principal, Rydal Elementary
Ms. Cathy Watson	Teacher, Copper Beech Elementary School
Ms. Alethia White-Burroughs	Teacher, Willow Hill Elementary School
Mr. Ryan Williams	Science Teacher, Abington Senior High School and AEA Representative
Dr. Melanie Wills	Parent
Mr. Harold Wright	Science Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Mr. Andrew Zucker	Science Teacher, Abington Junior High School and AEA Representative

Committee Tasks and Responsibilities

1. Review the PDE requirements delineated in Chapter 4 and all available information concerning the new graduation requirements including the Keystone Exams. Also, review national standards and resources as well as educational literature, which reviews research related to curriculum and instruction and provides information on “best practices.”

2. Identify instructional goals for the following grade spans: K-4, 5-8, and 9-12.

3. Use the guidelines established by the committee to evaluate instructional textbooks and materials that are said to address the goals identified for K-4, 5-8, and 9-12.

4. Summarize the evaluations of instructional textbooks and materials and develop recommendations for K-4, 5-8, and 9-12 science programs.

5. Develop an implementation plan that identifies curriculum and staff development needs to ensure the effective implementation of the science program with a focus on increased student achievement.

6. Prepare a report that reflects the recommendations of the committee with respect to instructional materials, professional development, program implementation, and student achievement.

Timeframe

December 2011	Committee Appointed
January – March 2012	Tasks 1, 2, and 3
April – May 2012	Tasks 4, 5, and 6