

TITLE: Professional Development

CODE: D2
Recommended

Policy

It is the policy of the Brattleboro Union High School District #6 to support the important connection between educator professional development and improved student achievement and assure that professional and paraeducator staff members acquire and maintain the knowledge and skills needed to contribute effectively to the achievement of the goals and strategies articulated by the school action plan.

Principles to Guide Professional Development

The school district and/or supervisory union shall provide or arrange for the provision of professional development programs or both, for teachers, administrators and staff within the supervisory union. Professional development programs provided by the school district and/or supervisory union will be directly linked to student performance goals identified in the annual action plan.

The Superintendent will oversee a professional development system that is characterized by the following:

1. its primary focus is on improved student learning and achievement
2. it is based on current, documented research findings
3. it provides structure and substance that allow continuity
4. it focuses on content and curricular needs as well as teaching methodology
5. it includes the needs of all who contribute to the education system
6. it is developed and directed by professional educators

Implementation

The Superintendent or his or her designee will develop a process to analyze student performance data, best-practices research, state and local standards compliance, and the district action plan priorities; all of which provide input to the creation of annual and multi-year professional development programs.

A professional development committee, may be composed of teachers, instructional assistants, support staff and administrators. The committee will recommend a professional development plan that will contribute to the accomplishment of the district's priorities.

After consultation with the professional development and action planning committees, the Superintendent (or his/her designee) will recommend to the school board a needs-based professional development plan and yearly calendar. The Superintendent (or his/her designee) will make recommendations to ensure adequate financial resources and time for educators to participate in appropriate professional development experiences.

The Superintendent in collaboration with principals and other administrators, will:

1. Coordinate professional development activities with district standards and goals, to ensure that professional development activities are, to the fullest extent practicable, aligned with the school and district plans and professional development needs.

2. Provide adequate opportunities to prepare educators to utilize assessment data for the purpose of increasing student achievement and to improve the overall effectiveness of the curriculum.
3. Ensure for new teachers that appropriate training in standards-based instruction be provided and implement a system of mentoring for professional staff during the first two years of employment.

The Superintendent will report at least annually to the School Board effectiveness of staff professional development and the relationship to the student achievement goals identified within the annual action plan.

The school board will negotiate employment contracts that place high priority on provisions that will support the district's professional development system.

The district's professional development system will be reviewed annually.

Date Warned: October 24, 2016
Date Adopted: November 7, 2016
Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. §261a (Duties of Supervisory Union Boards)
Vermont State Board of Education Rules §2120.1
Cross Reference: Board Member Education (B1)
Board Goal-Setting and Self-Evaluation (B2)
Educator Supervision & Evaluation (D4)
Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability (E3)
Local Action Plan (G11)