

Curriculum Criteria

This resource is a list of questions for a system to consider to generate curriculum criteria, as well as a list of sample curriculum criteria for middle school ELA.

Questions to consider:

- Are the instructional materials on the SBOE adoption list?
- Are the materials one of the TEA's Available Instructional Materials?
- How will we evaluate alignment to the standards and STAAR or other state assessments?
- What aspects of our instructional framework do we want to see reflected in the curriculum?
- What would that look like in the materials?
- How will we determine if the materials are aligned to Research Based Instructional Strategies (RBIS)?
- What is unique about our community that we want to consider in selecting curriculum?
- What supports do our teachers need for a variety of learner needs (i.e. emergent bilingual students, special populations, etc.)?
- What is our capacity to support the curriculum? Can we do more than one?

Sample Curriculum Selection Criteria:

- Includes specific resources for emergent bilingual students
- Includes information for families that is written in multiple languages
- Includes activities that encourage physical movement
- Includes activities and resources that support the arts
- Cannot require access to technology or the internet
- Includes regular opportunities for students to work with computers and other technology
- We have high teacher turnover in our district. Since we constantly have to train teachers on how to use the curriculum, we need materials that are easy to understand and use
- We value engagement with authentic texts, so we need an ELA curriculum that uses high-quality trade books, not commissioned texts
- The curriculum should support students' development of positive character traits and personal skills, (i.e. incorporates collaborative discussion protocols, includes a lot of group work, encourages self-reflection, etc.)
- Emphasizes vocabulary development