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EDU 640  
Curriculum Policy Critique

### **Policy from School Board Handbook:**

Strengths:

- Mentions a continuous process lasting 5 to 7 years
- Policy mentions curriculum committee
- Mentions how textbooks chosen should relate to educational objectives as well as curriculum

Weaknesses:

- Outdated
- Board policy not actually used by administration
- More geared towards textbook selection instead of entire curriculum
- Materials purchased each year was dictated by budget
- Doesn't address staff development

### **Current Process:**

Overview:

- 12 schools from the Northeast Educational Services Cooperative
- Textbook Review Committee made up of teachers from member schools
- Committee reviews materials and make recommendations based on how materials relate to standards
- Subject areas reviewed each year are tied to the DOE Standards Revisions and Adoption Timeline
- School makes decision on what materials to purchase based on committee recommendations
- Unfortunately, budget does play into decision making process

Strengths:

- Brings together committee members from a wide cross section which includes teachers from different districts
- Resource review conducted by committee
- Committee identifies how closely books correlate to standards
- Does allow for some piloting of materials

- For small school, takes curriculum decisions out of hands of maybe only 1 person

Weaknesses:

- Time needed to meet with committee members
- During review process, tougher to analyze student achievement data from different schools
- Little to no staff development to help ensure the success of new curriculum
- Not a part of the district's formal curriculum adoption policy

**General Statements:**

- Do conduct a data analysis day in which student achievement based on standards is discussed
- Small school so subject departments often consist of only 1 teacher at HS level
- Teachers are encouraged to seek out additional materials to supplement the curriculum
- Administration traditionally relied on staff to make curriculum decisions