



New Jersey Education Department Unveils Curricular Framework to Assist Schools in Implementing New Standards

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced that it is making available to schools a new, more flexible Curricular Framework to assist schools in implementing state academic standards in mathematics and English language arts for kindergarten to grade 12.

More than two dozen educators across all grade levels and fields, including special education and English as a Second Language instructors, helped craft the Curricular Framework, which replaces the previous Model Curriculum.

The Department established the Curricular Framework to align with the recently adopted New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The state establishes academic standards, which are expectations of what students should learn in each grade, but local school boards decide the curriculum, which are the day-to-day lessons that detail what is taught in the classroom.

"Schools can use the new Curricular Framework as a valuable resource on multiple levels," said Education Commissioner David C. Hespe. "Some schools may adopt and modify the Curricular Framework for their curricula in math and English language arts. Other schools may incorporate specific elements of the framework into their existing curriculum, while educators in other schools may use the framework as a tool to drive conversations on the effectiveness of their instruction."

In addition, the Department will use the Curricular Framework as a resource to support Priority Schools, which are the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools, and Focus Schools, which face issues with graduation rates, achievement gaps and low performance among certain student populations.

Just as the state's newly adopted Student Learning Standards reflect the unique needs and direction of New Jersey's public education system, the new Curricular Framework can be modified to suit the needs of individual school districts. While the previous Model Curriculum was considered a "closed document" that couldn't be altered, the new Curricular Framework is a much more detailed "open document" that allows local educators to input their own materials and curricular elements, making the final product unique to each grade in each district.

The Department of Education has posted information about the Curricular Framework [online](#), and will be sponsoring workshops for educators in coming months.