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Core Curriculum Requirements
Policy Series: 4000 Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Policy No. 4010 (New Policy)

8 **Purpose:**

9 The Provo City School District Board of Education establishes this policy to ensure that all
10 students receive instruction aligned with the Utah State Core Curriculum and satisfy graduation
11 requirements established by Utah law and Utah State Board of Education rules.

12 **REQUIRED CORE CURRICULUM**

13 The District curriculum shall meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by Utah law
14 and Utah State Board of Education rules. These requirements shall contain the essential
15 elements of each subject at appropriate grade levels. Essential elements represent the core
16 knowledge, skills, and competencies students should learn to become effective and productive
17 members of society. The District may add instructional elements at its discretion but shall not
18 omit required core curriculum standards.

19 The District shall provide character education integrated into regular schoolwork. Character
20 education instruction shall emphasize honesty, temperance, morality, courtesy, obedience to
21 law, respect for and understanding of the constitutions of the United States and the State of
22 Utah, the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system, respect for parents and home,
23 the dignity and necessity of honest labor, and other qualities of character promoting responsible
24 citizenship and productive living.

25 **K-6 CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

26 The District shall provide the following core curriculum subjects for students in kindergarten
27 through grade six:

- 28 1. English Language Arts
- 29 2. Mathematics
- 30 3. Science
- 31 4. Social Studies

- 32 5. Arts, including:
33 o Visual Arts
34 o Music
35 o Dance
36 o Theatre
37 6. Health Education
38 7. Physical Education
39 8. Educational Technology
40 9. Library media skills integrated into the core subject areas
41 10. Civics and character education integrated into the core subject areas.

42 Formative assessments shall occur regularly to ensure continual student progress. State-
43 approved summative adaptive assessments shall be used to assess student mastery of
44 language arts, mathematics, science, and written expression in grade five.

45 **GRADES 7-8 CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

46 Students in grades seven and eight shall complete the following courses:

- 47 1. Grade 7 Language Arts
48 2. Grade 8 Language Arts
49 3. Grade 7 Mathematics
50 4. Grade 8 Mathematics
51 5. Grade 7 Integrated Science
52 6. Grade 8 Integrated Science
53 7. United States History
54 8. Utah History.

55 Students shall also complete at least one course in each of the following areas during grades
56 seven or eight:

- 57 1. Health Education
58 2. College and Career Awareness
59 3. The Arts
60 4. Physical Education.

61 The Board of Education may require students to complete additional courses, may offer
62 additional elective courses, and may establish minimum credit requirements beyond those
63 required by the State Board of Education.

64 State-approved summative adaptive assessments shall be administered to assess student
65 mastery of language arts, mathematics, writing in grade eight, and science.

66 **COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS**

67 Upon request of a student or parent and with parental consent, the District may substitute a
68 required course with a course, extracurricular activity, or experience that is similar to the course
69 requirement or consistent with the student's Plan for College and Career Readiness.

70 The request shall:

- 71 1. Be submitted in writing;
- 72 2. Include a parent signature;
- 73 3. Identify the proposed substitution; and
- 74 4. Explain how the proposed substitution satisfies applicable standards.

75 The student's counselor shall evaluate the request and provide a recommendation to the
76 principal or designee. The principal or designee shall approve or deny the request. A student or
77 parent may appeal the decision to the Board of Education or its designee. The decision on
78 appeal shall be final.

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80 **GRADES 9-12 CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

81 Students in grades nine through twelve shall complete a minimum of eighteen (18) units of core
82 curriculum credit as follows:

83 **LANGUAGE ARTS – 4.0 UNITS**

84 Required credits shall include:

- 85 1. Grade 9 Language Arts – 1.0 unit
- 86 2. Grade 10 Language Arts – 1.0 unit
- 87 3. Grade 11 Language Arts – 1.0 unit
- 88 4. Grade 12 Language Arts – 1.0 unit consisting of applied or advanced language arts
89 credit approved by the Board of Education and State Board of Education.

90 Students may receive up to one-half credit for courses or school-sponsored activities
91 emphasizing verbal communication.

92

93 **MATHEMATICS – 3.0 UNITS**

94 Students shall complete:

- 95 1. Secondary Mathematics I
- 96 2. Secondary Mathematics II
- 97 3. Secondary Mathematics III.

98 With written parent or guardian request, a student may opt out of Secondary Mathematics III
99 and complete another approved mathematics course.

100 Students in grades seven or eight may earn mathematics credit before grade nine consistent
101 with Utah State Board rules. Students receiving credit before grade nine shall still complete
102 three mathematics credits through approved coursework aligned with the student's Plan for
103 College and Career Readiness.

104 A student who successfully completes Calculus with a grade of "C" or better shall be considered
105 to have completed mathematics graduation requirements.

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107 **SCIENCE – 3.0 UNITS**

108 Students shall complete:

- 109 1. Two units from foundation science areas including:
 - 110 ○ Earth Systems Science
 - 111 ○ Biological Science
 - 112 ○ Chemistry
 - 113 ○ Physics
 - 114 ○ Computer Science; and
- 115 2. One additional approved science credit consistent with the student's Plan for College
116 and Career Readiness.

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118 **SOCIAL STUDIES – 3.0 UNITS**

119 Students shall complete:

- 120 1. World Geography – 0.5 unit
- 121 2. World History – 0.5 unit
- 122 3. U.S. History – 1.0 unit
- 123 4. U.S. Government and Citizenship – 0.5 unit
- 124 5. Social Studies elective – 0.5 unit
- 125 6. Completion of a basic civics assessment or approved alternate assessment.

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127 **ARTS – 1.5 UNITS**

128 Credits may be earned in:

- 129 1. Visual Arts
- 130 2. Music
- 131 3. Dance
- 132 4. Theatre
- 133 5. Media Arts.

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135 **HEALTH EDUCATION – 0.5 UNIT**

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137 **PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 1.5 UNITS**

138 Required credits shall include:

- 139 1. Participation Skills – 0.5 unit
140 2. Fitness for Life – 0.5 unit
141 3. Individualized Lifetime Activities – 0.5 unit.

142 Team sports or athletic participation may substitute for eligible physical education requirements
143 with school approval consistent with Utah State Board rules.

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145 **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION – 1.0 UNIT**

146 Students shall complete one credit in approved Career and Technical Education pathways.

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148 **DIGITAL STUDIES – 0.5 UNIT**

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150 **GENERAL FINANCIAL LITERACY – 0.5 UNIT**

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152 **LIBRARY MEDIA SKILLS**

153 Library media skills shall be integrated into subject areas.

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155 **COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS MATHEMATICS COMPETENCY**

156 A student pursuing a college degree after graduation shall complete a full-year mathematics
157 course during the student's senior year unless the student qualifies for an exemption
158 established by Utah State Board rule.

159 A non-college degree-seeking student shall complete mathematics competencies appropriate to
160 the student's career goals as described in the student's Plan for College and Career Readiness.

161 The mathematics competency requirement may be modified through a student's Individualized
162 Education Program (IEP) when permitted by law.

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164 **ELECTIVE CREDITS**

165 In addition to the required core curriculum credits, students shall complete elective credits
166 sufficient to satisfy state graduation requirements and any additional graduation requirements
167 established by the Board of Education.

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ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT MASTERY OF CORE STANDARDS

The Board of Education shall provide students access to courses in the Utah core standards and shall ensure student mastery of those standards.

The District shall:

1. Use evidence-based instructional practices, technology, and instructional media to improve instruction;
2. Participate in statewide assessments as directed by the Utah State Board of Education;
3. Provide intervention for students who do not achieve mastery of core standards; and
4. Administer statewide assessments in compliance with student privacy and data protection laws.

ALTERNATE ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If a student refrains from participation in a portion of a course or an entire course pursuant to Utah law, the student’s parent and the school may establish an alternate academic accommodation allowing the student to demonstrate mastery of core standards or alternate standards.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The District may modify graduation requirements or mathematics competency requirements for a student with a disability when the modification is made through the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) consistent with state and federal law.

ECA Link: [ECA Curriculum Required Instruction.docx](#)

- Legal References:**
- [Utah Code § 53E-4-302](#)
 - [Utah Code § 53G-9-803](#)
 - [Utah Code § 53G-10-204](#)
 - [Utah Code § 53G-10-205](#)
 - [Utah Administrative Rule R277-700](#)

Board Approved: