

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

Pre-School, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Program

The kindergarten program shall include experiences designed to develop:

- social-emotional development;
- physical development;
- language development;
- early literacy;
- early mathematics;
- science;
- technology
- creative expression;
- health and safety
- social studies

A pre-school, junior kindergarten and kindergarten teacher shall be certified.

Grades One Through Five

The following shall be taught in grades one through five: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, visual art, music, health, physical education, and traffic safety .

In implementing the elementary program standards, the following curriculum definitions shall be used.

English-Language Arts. English-language arts instruction shall include the following communication processes: speaking, listening; reading; writing; viewing; and visual expression and nonverbal communication.

Instruction shall incorporate language learning and creative, logical, and critical thinking. The following shall be taught:

- oral and written composition;
- communication processes and skills, including handwriting and spelling;
- literature;
- creative dramatics; and
- reading.

Social Studies. Social studies instruction shall include citizenship education, history, and social sciences. Democratic beliefs and values, problem-solving skills, and social and political participation skills shall be incorporated. Instruction shall encompass:

- 5 themes of geography including location, place, human/environment interaction, regions, and movement
- history of the United States and Iowa,
- cultures of other peoples and nations.

The following shall be infused in the social studies instructional program:

- American citizenship, including the study of national, state, and local government; and the
- awareness of the physical, social, emotional, and mental self.

Mathematics. Mathematics instruction shall include:

- problem solving;
- geometry;
- measurement;

- appropriate computational skills, including mental arithmetic;
- reasonableness of results;
- reading, interpreting, and constructing tables, charts, and graphs;
- estimation; and the
- use of calculators as standard tools in problem solving.

Science. Science instruction shall include life, earth, and physical science. It shall incorporate the following:

- hands-on process skills;
- scientific knowledge;
- application of the skills and knowledge to students and society;
- conservation of natural resources; and
- environmental awareness.

Visual Art. Visual art instruction shall include: perceiving, comprehending, and evaluating the visual world; viewing and understanding the visual arts; developing and communicating imaginative and inventive ideas; and making art.

Music. Music instruction shall include skills, knowledge, and attitudes and shall include: singing and playing music; listening to and using music; reading and writing music; recognizing the value of the world's musical heritage; respecting individual musical aspirations and values; and preparing for consuming, performing, or composing.

Health. Health instruction shall include personal health; food and nutrition; environmental health; safety and survival skills; consumer health; family life; substance use and nonuse, encompassing the effects of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and poisons on the human body; emotional and social health; health resources; and prevention and control of disease, including characteristics of communicable diseases.

Physical Education. Physical education instruction shall include movement experiences and body mechanics; fitness activities; rhythmic activities; stunts and tumbling; simple games and relays; sports skills and activities; and water safety.

Traffic Safety. Traffic safety instruction shall include pedestrian safety; bicycle safety; auto passenger safety; school bus passenger safety; seat belt use; substance education; and the application of legal responsibility and risk management to these concepts.

Library Science. Students will also receive instruction in all facets of library science appropriate to their needs and developmental level.

Guidance Skills. Students will receive whole group instruction in a program of age appropriate guidance activities.

Citizenship Skills. Students will receive whole group instruction that focuses on citizenship qualities in a program of age/grade appropriate activities.

Talented and Gifted. Those students who are identified as meeting the criteria will receive instruction in an appropriate Talented and Gifted Program.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Iowa Admin. Code 3.5(1), (4), (6)
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