

PILOT PROGRAMS (K-6) AND PILOT COURSES (7-12)

The district recognizes that the process of improving the instructional program sometimes requires changes in program or course objectives, methods, techniques, materials, and management procedures. In and of itself, change does not necessarily result in improvement, but without change, improvement cannot take place. The district seeks to promote attitudes and create environments that will facilitate pilot programs and courses. It encourages individual members of the staff and school faculties as a whole to implement those changes that indicate potential for program improvement.

Instructional change. Changes in course or classroom organization, use of new instructional techniques and methods, and modification and rearrangement of time allotments are all within the responsibility of school personnel in adapting instruction to the needs of students. Use of new instructional supplies or equipment should be submitted as curriculum pilot programs or courses in accordance with this procedure when they would involve substantial cost increases if they were to become standard for district use, or when safety factors are involved, such as in science laboratory and physical education. Also, changes in content that modify adopted subject area, goals, or objectives, or that add new goals or objectives, must be submitted as curriculum pilot programs or courses. Proposed new courses are also to be developed and processed as curriculum pilot courses.

Approval. All curriculum pilot programs and courses must be approved by the Board of Education; term of approval does not exceed one year.

Expansion. Pilot programs and courses approved by the Board of Education may be expanded to additional schools upon approval of the Interdivisional Curriculum Committee.

Renewal. The Interdivisional Curriculum Committee may approve requests to conduct pilot programs or courses for an additional year. However, a pilot effort usually is not renewed for more than one year beyond an initial year of implementation.

Evaluation. A carefully designed plan of evaluation is included with each pilot program or pilot course proposal. At conclusion of any pilot program or course, a report is prepared that includes both results of the evaluation and recommendations for future status.