

**Academic Transparency**

**School Governing Board Resolution & Policy**

(Revised 6/8/22)

WHEREAS, this board is committed to ensuring that all learning materials and activities used at [district] schools meet rigorous expectations of academic quality and political impartiality, and

WHEREAS, it is essential for parents, this governing board, and the [district] community at large to have meaningful access to, and awareness of, the specific learning materials and activities presented to students, and

WHEREAS, scholars have concluded that “Ninety-five percent of elementary teachers and 97 percent of secondary teachers have reported using Google to plan instruction” and that 45% of teachers identify YouTube videos as a classroom resource used at least once per week, even as “teachers lack information about these materials’ quality and effectiveness,[[1]](#footnote-1) and

WHEREAS, politically divisive, academically discredited materials such as the New York Times *1619 Project*—which has been adopted in over 3,500 classrooms across all 50 states—is “mostly being used as supplemental, optional classroom teaching material” and adopted “by administrative fiat, not through a public textbook review process” (i.e. without the approval of school governing boards),[[2]](#footnote-2) and

WHEREAS, teachers nationally report spending more than four hours each week searching for instructional resources to use in the classroom,[[3]](#footnote-3) and

WHEREAS, [district] teachers should be encouraged to supplement classroom instruction with effective educational resources, but also to share with colleagues those materials which are most useful in order to improve their craft and reduce the amount of time new teachers are required to spend redundantly searching for and compiling materials from scratch, and

WHEREAS, educational best practices already call for the documentation of learning materials and activities via lesson plans submitted to principals or other administrators,

BE IT RESOLVED, that [district] will promote collaboration among its educators and parental awareness of the materials and activities used in instruction through the adoption of an academic transparency policy.



**Academic Transparency**

**School Governing Board Policy**

**A.** Each school that is operated by [the district] shall disclose on a publicly accessible portion of its website all of the following:

**1.** The procedures or processes in effect for the school principal or other staff to document, review or approve lesson plans or the learning materials and activities used for student instruction at the school.

**2.** A listing of the teacher and staff training materials and activities used at the school in the current school year.

**3.** A listing of the learning materials and activities used for student instruction at the school in the current school year, including at least the following, organized, at a minimum, by subject area, grade and teacher:

(a) Textbooks, articles and other required reading materials; videos and audio recordings; digital materials; websites; instructional handouts and worksheets; online applications for a phone, laptop or tablet; grade level or schoolwide assemblies; guest lectures; action-oriented civics learning assignments or projects; service-learning projects.

(b) The title, the author or organization, and if accessed online, the internet address, associated with the material or activity.

**B**. For each school, the principal or another site administrator designated in writing by the superintendent shall annually report to the superintendentwhether, to the best of their knowledge, the information listed pursuant to subsection A accurately reflects the learning materials, activities, and procedures employed at the school.

**C.** The superintendent shall develop a template, subject to approval by the board, to be available for optional use at each school to report the information required pursuant to subsection A.

**D**. Each school shall list the required materials and activities online not more than [ten] school days after the first use of each material or activity and in a manner that is accessible via the school website for at least two years.

**E**. Unless otherwise directed by the superintendent, each school may post its listing of materials and activities using any of the following methods:

**1**. Posting directly on the school website.

**2**. Using collaborative online document or spreadsheet software or an online learning management system, provided that the required information is publicly accessible via a posted link on the school website.

**3**. Posting a copy or the full text of the lesson plans submitted to the school principal or other staff by instructors at the school in the current year.

**F**. For privacy purposes, a teacher or staff member employed by a school may request that the school use the teacher's or staff member's personal title and last initial instead of the teacher's or staff member's full name when posting materials.

**G**. If the school chooses to satisfy the requirements of this section by utilizing an online learning management system:

1. The school shall provide temporary login credentials via a publicly accessible link on the school website to the school's online learning management system for any grade levels requested.

2. Any temporary login credentials shall be automatically generated immediately on request and provide access for the requested grade levels for not less than seventy-two hours at least once per thirty-day period for each requestor.

3. The access provided via the login credentials may be limited to the learning materials and activities used for instruction at the school and is not required to provide access to academic assessments, answer keys, student generated content, student performance records or other student identifying information.

**H**. This section does not require:

**1**. The digital reproduction of the learning materials or activities.

**2**. The disclosure of academic assessments.

**3**. The separate reporting of individual components of learning materials that are produced as a single volume. Articles, videos or other materials from websites shall be identified, if possible, with an internet address specific to the relevant content used for student instruction.

**4**. The posting or distribution of any material or activity in a manner that would constitute an infringement of copyright under the copyright act (P.L. 94-553; 90 Stat. 2541 to 2598; 17 United States Code sections 101 to 1332).

**5**. The listing of materials and activities used only for individualized special education instruction as part of an individualized education program, as defined in 20 United States Code sections 1401 and 1412, or only for a student with a disability under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973 (29 United States Code section 794).

**Definitions**

**I.** For the purposes of this section:

**1**. "Action-oriented civics learning assignments or projects" includes assignments or projects that require students to contact elected officials or advocate for a political or social cause or to participate in political or social demonstrations.

**2**. "Guest lecture":

(a) Includes a presentation or educational event conducted by an outside individual or organization, including those facilitated by the school's staff.

(b) Does not include student presentations given by students enrolled at the school.

**3**. "Lesson plan" means the daily, weekly or other routinely produced guide, description or outline of the instruction to be provided by a teacher to students at the school.

**4**. "Service-learning projects" includes both of the following:

(a) Any requirement to participate in internships or other forms of collaboration with outside organizations after regular school hours for course credit or as a class project or assignment.

(b) The specific internships or organizations selected by students if the selection is made from a list of specific internships or organizations provided by the school or its staff.

**5.** "Used for student instruction":

(a) Means assigned, distributed or otherwise presented to students in any course for which students receive academic credit or in any educational capacity in which the school requires the student body to participate or in which a majority of students in a given grade level participate.

(b) Includes learning materials or activities from which students are required to choose one or more from a selection of materials that is restricted to specific titles.

**Section II: Prohibition on Denying Parental Access to Materials**

**A.** No [district] employee acting in the course of their official duties shall purchase or contract for copyrighted learning materials to be used for student instruction at a [district] school, including the renewal of subscription-based materials for which students are provided individual login credentials or access via electronic personal devices, unless provision is made to allow parents and guardians of enrolled students to review the materials within 10 school days of the submission of a written request to the school. The means of provision shall include at least one the following:

**1.** Providing access to the materials at the school site during the school’s normal hours of operation within 10 school days of written request.

**2.** Providing temporary remote access or login credentials to at least one copy of the materials for review for at least a 24-hour period following each request, not to exceed one request per item per household during each 30-day period.

**B.** The parent or guardian reviewing copyrighted digital materials shall not be required as a condition of reviewing the materials to enter into terms of a nondisclosure agreement nor waive any rights beyond complying with federal copyright law.

**1.** Nondisclosure agreement means a confidentiality agreement or contract provision that prohibits the disclosure of information by a party to the contract.

1. Digital Instructional Materials. What Are Teachers Using and What Barriers Exist? RAND Corporation. 2020 <https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR2500/RR2575z17/RAND_RR2575z17.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Disputed NY Times '1619 Project' Already Shaping Schoolkids' Minds on Race. RealClearInvestigations. 2020. https://www.realclearinvestigations.com/articles/2020/01/31/disputed\_ny\_times\_1619\_project\_is\_already\_shaping\_kids\_minds\_on\_race\_bias\_122192.html [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. State of K-12 Market’, MDR Education. <https://mdreducation.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/StateofK12Market2016_ClassroomTrends.pdf#page=9> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)