

CURRICULUM RESEARCH PROJECTS

Philosophy

The Messalonskee School District (MSAD 47) recognizes the importance of providing a quality education for its students. To this end, the District intends to contribute to the development of each student's ability to synthesize learning experiences through the process of curriculum research projects.

The guiding principles of these research projects are embodied within the District's philosophy, which is to "offer a liberal education built on a flexible, integrated curriculum which not only stresses the basic tools of learning and respects the integrity of the traditional disciplines, but also emphasizes the application of these tools and the interrelations of subject areas."

The focus of the curriculum research project is for the student to apply knowledge, skills, and attitudes in conducting research. Knowledge and skills are measured against criteria, which describe quality and the extent of student learning.

Definition

A curriculum research project is a student demonstration of ability to acquire new knowledge and solve problems, to communicate effectively in writing, visually, and orally in order to research, analyze, and use information appropriately.

These projects are required components of the assessment process in middle school and high school. All projects include written research, an oral presentation to an audience, and visual display(s), when appropriate.

These research projects are designed to be an inclusive part of the Messalonskee School District (MSAD 47) curricula and should support knowledge learned within the various disciplines.

Expectations and Standards

The principals at each level develop, with faculty, student, and community involvement, the criteria for curriculum research projects according to the following expectations and standards. Rubrics and practices will be standardized throughout the District with clear expectations outlined at each level.

- All Messalonskee School District (MSAD 47) students shall successfully complete a curriculum research project in middle school, and high school.
- The curriculum research project shall demonstrate the student's success as an independent worker, supported by teachers and others as age appropriate.

- The curriculum research project shall demonstrate a synthesis of skills, knowledge, and attitudes, utilizing appropriate technologies (telecommunications, computer, audio/visual) in all phases of the project.
- At each level, the District expects the curriculum research project to be of high quality as outlined in a grade appropriate scoring rubric.

Accountability

- The curriculum project shall be recorded when completed on the permanent cumulative folder, and the research component will be included in the student's portfolio.
- All students are expected to successfully complete the curriculum research project at each level. Guidelines for "out-of-school" support and assistance from adults will be defined at each level. The District shall provide opportunities for assistance to those students who are unsuccessful.

Implementation

Implementation of this policy shall begin during the 1996/1997 school year at the elementary and middle school levels. High School implementation shall begin with the Class of 2001. Students who transfer into the District in the fall during the years requiring curriculum research projects shall be held to the same standards as other students; any adjustments to expectations shall be with the consent of the building principal.

Cross Reference: AD: District Philosophy
 IKAB: Communicating Student Progress
 IKE: Promotion/Retention Policy
 IKF: Graduation Requirements

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