

ICD-R Pilot Projects

7/25/16

RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

The Cobb County School District (District) recognizes that instructional needs requiring additional investigation of materials or programs may arise outside of the resource acquisition cycle. The District additionally recognizes that students will be treated in a dignified, considerate, fair and respectful manner during any pilot projects and that they will be kept in a safe environment conducive to learning [Board Policy JA (Treatment of Students)].

RULE:**A. PILOTS DEFINED:****1. Pilot Programs/Courses:**

A pilot program/course is any program/course which deviates from the existing, District-adopted curriculum.

2. Pilot Textbooks/Materials:

Pilot materials are any materials which would be used in lieu of the District-adopted textbooks/materials for the majority of any one class being instructed.

3. Student Rights:

Pilots shall adhere to the applicable Board of Education (Board) Policies and Administrative Rules including the following:

Board Policy JA (Treatment of Students)

Board Policy BD (Planning, Programming, Budgeting System)

Administrative Rule ICC-R (Curriculum Research)

B. PROCEDURES:**1. School Initiated Pilots:**

School staff members who desire to implement programs or use materials other than those officially adopted by the Board must request permission from the Teaching and Learning Division to implement these on a pilot basis. The approval process is as follows:

a. Approval:

Pilot project applications initiated by schools will be considered for approval only during the two-year period prior to the scheduled year of the resource acquisition cycle for the affected area;

b. Project Outline:

Upon approval of the Principal, an outline of the proposed pilot project must be submitted to the appropriate Teaching and Learning Director at least one semester prior to the projected starting date of the pilot. The outline shall include:

- (1) The academic targets, feasibility and timeline for implementation and completion of the project;
- (2) Appropriate evaluation techniques and instruments that can demonstrate the impact on student achievement;
- (3) Estimated cost and funding source.

c. Evaluation:

At the conclusion of the project, the school receiving permission to conduct a pilot project must submit an evaluation. The evaluation should:

- (1) Be completed by the teacher(s) involved;
- (2) Be signed by the Principal;
- (3) Include the impact on student achievement for the academic targets identified in the outline submitted for the project; and

(4) Be returned to the appropriate Teaching and Learning director upon completion of the project.

2. **District Initiated Pilots:**

Pilot programs/courses may also be initiated and implemented by the District with written approval of the appropriate Director and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and the Chief Academic Officer. District-initiated projects:

- a. May occur without regard to the textbook adoption cycle;
- b. Shall include appropriate evaluation techniques and instruments that can demonstrate the impact on student achievement;
- c. Shall require permission from Principals and Level Assistant Superintendents participating in the pilot; and
- d. Shall include a final evaluation with recommendations submitted to the Teaching and Learning Division at the conclusion of the study.

3. **Evaluation:**

The following evaluation provisions apply to both school-initiated and District-initiated pilots:

- a. Evaluation benchmarks, measures and goals shall be identified/approved as part of the pilot application;
- b. Interim Evaluations:
 - (1) All pilot programs/courses and materials will be evaluated at specific intervals in order to determine their continuance, termination or status change as outlined in the regulations;
 - (2) Data from interim evaluations will be shared with the appropriate Teaching and Learning director before making determination to change the status of the pilot;
- c. A final report will be submitted to the Teaching and Learning Division within the approved timeframe of the pilot.

C. PROGRAM IMPACT:

If the evaluation of the pilot reveals significant positive results, appropriate action will be taken to incorporate the project into the approved curriculum.

Adopted: 8/9/78

Revised: 4/28/83; 8/8/84; 8/8/90; 7/28/94; 2/1/02

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Revised: 1/13/10

Revised and re-coded: 9/27/12 (Previously coded as Administrative Rule IGC)

Revised: 8/28/15; 7/25/16