

What is curriculum development?

And when does my school need it?

Curriculum development is the means by which new content and supporting materials are added to the school.

Curriculum development is both a logical and a creative way to add new learning experiences to the lives of students.

# We need curriculum development when . . .

- Students perform below real ability
- Students aren't prepared for grade level
- Instructional materials are too difficult
- Low standardized test scores
- Advanced course offerings are not available in some subjects
- Students do poorly on daily work
- Graduates are unprepared for job market

# We need curriculum development

(2)

- Graduates seem unprepared for higher education
- High rate of student failure
- Students cannot apply basic skills
- Students are polarized along racial lines
- There is division among faculty along racial lines
- There is racially motivated hostility in the community

# We need curriculum development

(3)

- There is student-teacher antagonism along racial lines
- There is racially-motivated hostility in the community
- Unequal status roles for minorities in curriculum materials
- Transported students feel unwelcome
- Racial groups establish “territory”
- Parents of transported students not involved
- Avoidance of problem situation by school personnel

# We need curriculum development

(4)

- There are frequent staff absences
- There is habitual staff tardiness
- There are patterns of staff absences and tardiness
- Staff seems unmotivated.
- **NO JOY** in going to the classroom

# We need curriculum development

(5)

- When staff have low expectations for student achievement and behavior
- There is an apparent lack of productive teaching techniques and methods
- Instruction not geared to student needs
- There is resistance to progressive change and professional growth
- Learning experiences seem passive

# We need curriculum development

(6)

- There is a lack of positive learning environments
- Poor classroom management or no classroom management
- Lack of staff cooperative effort



# We need curriculum development

(7)

- School administration seems cold and detached from student concerns
- Administrators and staff feel isolated
- Low status of some subject areas in teacher's view
- Extensive vandalism
- Negative student attitude toward learning
- Students are uninvolved, unmotivated
- Lack of harmonious staff relationships

# We need curriculum development (8)

- When there are inadequate efforts to involve students in community, or opposite
- Lack of parent interest
- Lack of teacher involvement in community
- Principals and teachers do not involve community
- Lack of communication between school and community

# We need curriculum development

(9)

- When truancy is frequent
- Frequent tardiness
- Frequent class cutting
- High absentee rate
- High dropout rate
- High rate of student mobility

# We need curriculum development (10)

- When there is vandalism
- Violence
- Disruptive classroom behavior
- Student use of illegal drugs
- Disruptive behavior on campus or playground
- Frequent referrals of students to office for discipline
- Disruptions caused by outsiders
- Excessive noise and confusion
- Disrespect for authority

Curriculum development, then, is like exercise for a failing heart. It is like a breath of fresh air, like the joy of new-found health, it is vitality to a school. The course you are taking is a course in both preventive health (for a school) and in heart surgery.