

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

To succeed in the 21st century, students need more than basic literacy. The schools need to give students the opportunity to develop their capacities for critical thinking, problem solving, facility in use of technology, and the ability to work collaboratively with others. These skills need to be layered upon a solid foundation of basic skills with both literacy and numeracy. Further, a fundamental responsibility of public schools is to prepare students to become good citizens. To accomplish this requires an understanding of the history and Constitution of the United States along with the duties associated with citizenship.

Specific curricular guidelines as established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provide standards or a framework for specific concepts, skills, and factual information to be learned at specific grade levels and within particular disciplines.

The business of the schools is to equip all children with the skills, tools, and attitudes that will lay the basis for learning now and in the future. This means giving highest priority to developing skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and solving numerical problems.

The first claim of the community's resources will be made for the realization of these priorities. School dollars, school talent, school time, and whatever innovation in program is required must be concentrated on these top-ranking goals. No student should be by-passed or left out of the schools' efforts to teach the fundamental skills.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:1](#); [71:2](#); [71:3](#); [71:13](#)

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