

Curriculum Review Process Summary

This document provides a summary of the Parent Aware curriculum review process and instructions for submitting curriculum to be reviewed for approval by the Curriculum Review Committee.

Curriculum Review Process

The Curriculum Review Committee will determine if the curriculum submitted meets the following requirements:

Meets the Parent Aware definition of curricula

Curriculum is a set of written materials that describe a particular approach to providing learning experiences for children, including all of the following:

- the theoretical, philosophical and/or research basis of the approach to nurturing and educating young children
- the goals and objectives for children's learning and development, including the skills and knowledge the curriculum seeks to foster
- the experiences that children will have to facilitate their progress toward the goals and objectives (including specification of features of the physical environment, scheduling, specific learning activities, and adult-child interactions)
- the process through which adults will plan and carry out learning experiences to facilitate children's progress toward the goals and objectives

Is reasonably aligned with the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress

The Curriculum Review Committee will only review curriculum if it is comprehensive of the domains in the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress. Curricula that apply to just one or two domains will not be reviewed unless they are submitted for review as a bundle.

Links to Minnesota's Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPs):

- Early Childhood Indicators of Progress for children 0 – 3:
(<http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfs/legacy/legacy/DHS-4438-ENG>)
- Early Childhood Indicators of Progress for children 3 – 5:
(<http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfs/legacy/legacy/DHS-4576-ENG>)

Meets the Parent Aware curriculum approval criteria

1. Curriculum must include goals and objectives
2. Curriculum must provide a theoretical, philosophical or research basis
3. Curriculum must include information about the ages it is designed for. Only curricula for children ages 0 – 5 will be eligible to be reviewed for approval.
4. Curriculum must be reasonably aligned with the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPs) by covering all domains or being supplemented through a bundle.
5. Curriculum must reasonably provide for/allows for and/or is flexible enough to be used with an assessment tool to individualize instruction based on children's individual differences.
6. Curriculum should include provisions for including families
7. Items will be reviewed to determine extent to which the following are appropriately provided for in the written curriculum documents:

- Sequence
- Appropriateness of materials
- General approach (balance of teacher-directed vs child-directed)
- Provision for different types of learning experiences (individual, small group, and large group, learning centers, "hands-on" learning experiences and learning during routines and transitions)
- Guidance is provided on adult-child interaction, including behavior management
- Guidance is provided on adapting/refining to serve children with disabilities, children learning English as second language
- Guidance is provided for using instructional assessment information in curriculum planning process
- Features suggest sensitivity to cultural diversity

Nominating or submitting curricula for review

In order to submit your curriculum for review, you must complete the *Form for Submitting Curriculum for Review*. At this time, only child care/early education programs located in one of the pilot areas for the Parent Aware pilot may submit curricula to be reviewed.

Nominating for inclusion on the approved list

You may nominate a published, commercially available curriculum to be reviewed for inclusion in the approved list provided on the Parent Aware website.

Submitting a locally-developed curriculum for review

You may submit a curriculum that your program developed for its own use. Locally-developed curricula will not be posted publicly. Locally-developed curricula may be submitted as part of the Parent Aware application process.

Submitting use of an approach for review

Programs may submit a summary of how they are using an approach, such as Montessori or the Project Approach. The program must demonstrate how their use of an approach satisfies the definition and criteria for curricula, and any separate written materials developed locally by their program that satisfy criteria that are not met by the approach alone. Use of an approach to satisfy the use of curriculum indicator may be submitted as part of the Parent Aware application process.

Submitting a bundle of curricula for review

If you are using multiple commercially available, published curricula that are not individually comprehensive of the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress, you should present all curricula used as a bundle for review. Bundles of curricula should be submitted as part of the Parent Aware application process.

Questions

Questions regarding these requirements should be directed to:

Michelle West

Minnesota Department of Human Services

Child Development Services

PO Box 64962

St Paul, MN 55164-0962

michelle.r.west@state.mn.us.