

Curriculum Overview

D303 utilizes a comprehensive, rigorous curriculum to ensure each student has the college, career, and life skills necessary to pursue their post-secondary path. The curriculum is grounded in the District's educational mission and incorporates all content areas required by Illinois State law and School Board policy.

District 303 curriculum is designed and implemented on the following guiding principles:

- The Illinois Learning Standards are the foundation of all curricula;
- Each student has equitable access to the same rigorous and culturally responsive curriculum, assessment, resources, and instruction; and
- Learning activities are designed to allow students to apply their knowledge and solve real-world problems.

The District curriculum and instructional resources are available on the District website. In addition, families and members of the public may review these resources by making an appointment with their child's building principal; members of the public may contact the Director of Curriculum.

Generally, students are to engage in all aspects of the District's instructional program. However, in limited circumstances, families may seek to exempt their child from a specific instructional unit, program, or materials. All objections to the curriculum, instructional materials, or programs must be based on one of the "opt-out" provisions in the Illinois School Code or violate their child's right to the free exercise of religion as outlined in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Curriculum Objections for Opt-Out Provisions in Illinois School Code

Illinois School Code permits families to "opt-out" of the following instructional units: family life class; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases; avoiding sexual abuse; instruction on organ/tissue and blood donor and transplantation programs; and animal dissection. Information on when these units are taught can be found [here](#).

At the start of each school year/course, teachers will provide families with an overview of all instructional units. Additionally, families will be notified a minimum of two weeks before any unit with "opt-out" content begins. Families wishing to "opt their child out" of these curriculum components must complete the curriculum objection form, which is available by contacting the classroom teacher or the building principal. Families must submit the form five days before the unit begins, providing the time necessary to arrange appropriate supervision.

Other Curriculum Objections

Families may seek a curriculum exemption if they believe a component of the curriculum, instructional materials, or program may violate their child's rights as outlined in the Constitution's First Amendment. Families are encouraged to discuss their concerns with their child's teacher before requesting an exemption.

Families seeking an exemption must complete the curriculum objection form, which is available by contacting the building principal. The Director of Curriculum will review all curriculum exemptions, and families will be notified in writing of the District's decision. Families unsatisfied with the decision may file a grievance under the District's *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; Board Policy 2:260.