

PILOT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS/EVALUATION

The Board believes that the continued success and effectiveness of the district's instructional program depends on awareness of changing conditions in the field of education and on appropriate, responsive modifications of the program. Further, the Board encourages action research in the form of pilot projects and programs. Therefore, the Board may approve pilot projects and programs.

A pilot project/program is defined as a new teaching method or instructional program to be implemented on a limited scale and for a limited time to determine the extent to which the method or program would be appropriate for inclusion in the regular district curriculum. The Board may approve pilot projects and programs for up to two years. At the end of that time, the Board will consider whether the project/program holds worth and value, and should be accorded regular status. The Board will attempt to continue successful programs and services developed under funded pilot programs or pilots when the funding runs out.

An educator or staff group that wishes to propose a pilot project/program must present a written plan setting forth the purposes, general procedures, means of communication with designated audiences, and standards of evaluation for the project/program, to the principal(s) who would be involved. If the principal(s) approve the plan, it will be forwarded to the Superintendent or designee, who will review and determine approval, denial, or referral to the Board for review. The Board will approve the initiation of pilot projects and programs when they involve new instructional areas for particular levels; special federal, state, or outside funding; or any contracts or agreements with other educational agencies, organizations, institutions, or publishers.

If the Board approves a project/program, it may require that express, affirmative parental permission for student participation be obtained. The Board may also require interim reports as well as evaluation at the project/program's conclusion.

All instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, student textbooks, videotapes, manipulatives, software programs, and any supplementary materials, used in connection with any pilot program or project will be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the children in the program.

[Adoption Date: February 18, 1999]