

CAMBIUM LEARNING, INC.
NATIONAL ACADEMIC EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Curriculum Audit – Mexican American Studies Department – Tucson Unified School District

worked collaboratively with each other across various sociocultural backgrounds and academic abilities.

It is the auditors' recommendation that the high school Mexican American Studies Department program courses of Latino Literature, American History/Mexican American Perspectives, and American Government/Social Justice, once revised with significant modifications as outlined in Recommendation 1, remain as core courses with open lines of communication and collaboration with Tucson Unified School District and the Arizona Department of Education. Perhaps if this program were expanded and made available to more students, it is likely there would be even more diversity of students within the courses.

V. SUMMARY

This document constitutes the final report for the Curriculum Audit of the Tucson Unified School District Mexican American Studies Department. The curriculum audit was commissioned by the Arizona Department of Education; the Governing Authority within the scope of its policy-making sanctions.

The Tucson Unified School District Mexican American Studies Department Curriculum Audit consisted of three phases and took place during the period of March 7, 2011 through May 2, 2011 and includes an Initial Data and Document Collection Phase, the Diagnostic Phase, and the final Analysis Phase. The Initial Data and Document Collection Phase incorporated collecting historical and documentation including but not limited to Arizona Department of Education State Standards and Tucson Unified School District Standards, curriculum materials, reports, resolutions, prior findings, summative student data, school data, and professional development artifacts. The Diagnostic Phase encompassed onsite school and classroom visitations, observations, and focus group interviews with an assortment of stakeholders allowing for a wide array of voices. The third and final stage, the Analysis Phase, was performed off site to examine, evaluate, and triangulate findings.

An audit is a methodical and formal review and examination of an organization. Within the educational program context, an audit is designed to analyze current performance against established standards, research-based educational practices and reveal the extent to which administrators and professional staff of a school district have developed and implemented a comprehensive, valid, and effective system of curriculum management and instruction. This curriculum and instructional system established within the framework of board policies enables a school district to make the greatest use of its resources in the education of its students for continuous improvement; thus, ensuring a quality education for ALL students.

Audit Purpose Revisited

The purpose of the Tucson Unified School District Mexican American Studies Department Curriculum Audit was to determine: (1) how or if the Tucson Unified School District Mexican American Studies Department programs are designed to improve student achievement; (2) if

CAMBIUM LEARNING, INC.
NATIONAL ACADEMIC EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Curriculum Audit – Mexican American Studies Department – Tucson Unified School District

statistically valid measures indicated student achievement occurred; and (3) whether the Mexican American Studies Department’s curriculum is in compliance with A.R.S 15-112(A).

Arizona Revised Statute 15-112(A) prohibits a school district or charter school from including in its program any courses or classes that includes any of the following:

1. Promote the overthrow of the United States Government.
2. Promote resentment towards a race or class of people.
3. Are designed primarily for pupils of a particular ethnic group.
4. Advocate ethnic solidarity instead of treating pupils as individuals.

To quote Governing Board Policy ADF – Ethnic Studies, “TUSD further recognizes that culture exerts a powerful influence on teaching and learning and will therefore promote cultural understanding in all aspects of a student’s school experience by adopting curriculum, learning activities and teaching practices that lead to intercultural proficiency. All students have the opportunity to learn their cultural heritage and appreciate its uniqueness as well as that of others.”

The curriculum audit team submits their findings and recommendations on behalf of ALL Tucson Unified School District students in the goal of being inclusive and respectful for the diverse population it serves. The purpose of the curriculum audit is to provide a third-party set of findings and recommendations to assist in the amelioration of the Mexican American Studies Department.

Abridged Findings of Outcome Measures

In response to Outcome Measure 1, Tucson Unified School District’s Mexican American Studies Department programs are designed to improve student achievement based on the audit team’s findings of valuable unit and lesson design, engaging instructional practices, and collective inquiry strategies through values of diversity and intercultural proficiency, although a more comprehensive curriculum framework is needed.

Outcome Measure 2 stated that the findings of the auditors agreed student achievement has occurred and is closing the achievement gap based on the re-analysis and findings of the Tucson Unified School District’s Department of Accountability and Research.

Outcome Measure 3 demonstrated that during the curriculum audit period, no observable evidence was present to suggest that Arizona Revised Statutes 15-112(A) is in violation of the law within any observed classroom in the Tucson Unified School District.

Recommendations Abstract

The strategic goal outlined for 2011-2012 in Tucson Unified School District is to capitalize on quality instruction and excellent programs. Modifications to the Mexican American Studies Department will support and enhance this strategic goal.