

# Chicago Public Schools Policy Manual

**Title:** MIDDLE GRADES SPECIALIZATION

**Section:** 602.1

**Board Report:** 08-1022-PO1

**Date Adopted:** October 22, 2008

## Policy:

### THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education (“the Board”) rescind Board Report 87-0527-PO2, and adopt a new Middle Grades Specialization Policy.

### PURPOSE:

To require 1) that Chicago Public Schools (“CPS”) students in grades 6, 7 and 8 receive instruction in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies from teachers recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education as Middle Grade Content Area Specialists in those content areas; and 2) that a sufficient number of teaching positions be programmed for Middle Grades Content Area Specialist teachers.

### POLICY TEXT:

**I. Definitions:** For purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. “Middle Grade Content Area Specialist” means a teacher who either: 1) possesses a middle grades content area endorsement from the Illinois State Board of Education in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and/or Social Science; or 2) through the school year 2010-2011 only, has been authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education to teach in those middle grade content areas pending completion of required course work and is making annual progress toward completing endorsement requirements.
- B. “Middle Grades” means grades 6, 7 and 8.

### II. Required Staffing and Assignment of Content Area Specialists to Provide Instruction in Content Areas.

Effective at the start of the 2009-2010 school year, principals and unit administrators at schools and units serving students in the Middle Grades shall ensure that Middle Grades students receive instruction in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies from a Middle Grade Content Area Specialist in the appropriate content area.

### III. Obligation to Designate Fund 115 Positions as Positions Programmed for Middle Grades Content Area Specialists.

Effective with 2009-2010 school year budgets, the Office of Management and Budget shall designate from among the Fund 115 teaching positions allocated to schools or units serving Middle Grades, a minimum number of teacher positions in each of the following core content areas of middle grade Mathematics, Science, Language Arts and/or Social Studies, which positions shall be programmed for Middle Grade Content Area Specialists. The actual number of the Fund 115 positions to be designated for Middle Grade Content Area Specialists shall be determined by a formula or formulas to be established by the Chief Education Officer based on the number of students in the Middle Grades.

### IV. Chief Education Officer’s Guidelines and Authority to Grant Waivers or Modifications.

The Board delegates to the Chief Education Officer the authority to grant a waiver or modification of this policy to schools or units when staffing or other educational considerations at the school or unit make compliance impossible or educationally imprudent. The Chief Education Officer shall establish Guidelines to Implement Middle Grade Specialization, which may be amended or modified from time to time as determined by the Chief Education Officer. Said Guidelines shall include but not be limited to:

- A. A formula or formulas for determining the number of positions to be designated as Middle Grade Content Area Specialists, including a mechanism for applying that formula to schools and units that receive per pupil funding; and
- B. Processes by which schools and units may seek a waiver or modification of the requirements of this policy based upon exigent circumstances.

Schools unable to meet the requirements of this policy or seeking to meet the requirements through alternative means must submit a waiver or modification request to the Chief Education Officer according to the processes outlined in said Guidelines. Waiver requests must include a plan for coming into compliance with this policy. Approved waivers must be monitored and reported on annually.

**V. Interest Free Tuition Loan Program.**

The Board delegates to the Executive Officer for Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer the authority to develop a program for obtaining interest-free tuition loans to assist teachers in enrolling and successfully completing necessary coursework to become Middle Grade Content Area Specialists as defined in this policy. The Executive Officer shall develop and publish guidelines for the administration of the Interest Free Tuition Loan Program, including but not limited to, the terms and conditions for teacher participation in the program. Expenditures necessitated by this program shall be made and approved in accordance with Board policies.

**VI. Reporting to the Board.**

Commencing in January 2010, the Executive Officer for Human Resources shall make a written report to the Board on compliance with and the administration of this policy which shall include the following:

- A. A report on the number of positions designated as Middle Grades Content Area Specialists;
- B. A copy of the Interest-Free Tuition Loan Program Guidelines promulgated by the Executive Officer for Human Resources; and,
- C. A report on the number of teachers participating in the Interest Free Tuition Loan Program.

Commencing in January 2010, the Chief Education Officer shall make a written report to the Board on compliance with and the administration of this policy which shall include the following:

- A. A report of schools not in compliance;
- B. A report on the number of waivers or modifications of this policy sought by schools or units, and, if granted, the reasons for such waivers or modifications;

<b>Amends/Rescinds:</b>	Rescinds 87-0527-PO2
<b>Cross References:</b>	
<b>Legal References:</b>	23 Ill.Admin.Code 1.720; 23 Ill.Admin.Code 25.100; 23 Ill.Admin.Code 25.464