

Information for Implementation of the Middle School FACS Program Standards

The recommendation of 120-180 instructional days (with days of study based on 45 minute periods meeting 5 days per week, or their equivalent in other scheduling structures such as 60 or 90 minutes) is needed for adequate curriculum coverage of the 5 required program standards. More extensive coverage of selected topics would require additional time.

The lesser time allocation overall for grade 6, 7, and 8 provides for minimal coverage of the 5 program standards.

Specific distribution of instruction days across grade levels will vary depending on local school scheduling. Recommendation for scheduling may include: at least 40-60 hours in each of grades 6, 7, and 8; 60-90 hours in each of 2 grades; or 120-180 hours in one grade level (7 or 8).

The 5 required program standards (Career Education, Consumer and Resource Management, Foods, Nutrition and Wellness, Human Growth and Development and Interpersonal Relationships) should receive priority for coverage.

Laboratory experiences and other types of student-centered, hands-on projects are expected in every unit of study to address the program standards. Many students do not have the opportunity to experience activities like these at home.

- Activities and projects that include sewing can be effective in middle school family and consumer sciences (FACS) if they are limited to the sewing skills needed for completing a specific project. Such projects should focus on the high priority FACS program standards and should build student abilities for learning and for peer cooperation and support. Service learning and/or large-group product development are strongly recommended. Possible examples include:
 - Personal image: Simple clothing item or accessory maintenance
 - Caring for the Environment: re-usable tote bags
 - Personal space: Locker pockets
 - Child Development: Developmentally appropriate toys for children
 - Production: Class/group produced items (perhaps as part of a school or community service project)

- An opportunity to practice basic food purchasing, preparing and serving techniques is an important component of the middle school FACS program. These laboratory experiences strongly support the FACS program and allow for collaborative working opportunities with Health programs. In addition the foods labs provide the students with the chance to learn skills that will help them maintain the nutritional quality of the foods they eat and to prepare new and diverse foods that expose them to other cultures.

FACS Curriculum Development and Instruction

The program standard guidelines:

- are consistent with the state “Vision and Mission” statements for Family and Consumer Science education and with the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education (V-TECS 1998).
- define FACS program standards and should be used to build a strong common identity among middle school FACS programs across the state.
- allow for flexibility to account for local setting, instructional approaches and student characteristics, interests and needs.
- emphasize thinking, communication, leadership and management processes.
- support the developmental characteristics, needs and challenges of young adolescents.
- clearly communicate essential FACS content and processes that every middle school student needs in order to manage their current lives and emphasize *critical and emergent issues** facing young adolescents.
- align to the goal of FACS programs to help students develop self-concept, relate to others, become independent and manage resources.
- facilitate instruction that enables student to assume increasing responsibility for their own learning and well being in school, at home and in the community.
- enable authentic application of other content areas including technology, health, the arts, language arts, mathematics and social studies in developmentally appropriate ways.
- provide opportunities for students to develop good citizenship and social responsibility by building connections between content and action through service-learning, hands-on projects, production of goods and services, student research, projects and events of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) youth organization.

**Critical and Emergent Issues:* obesity, nutrient deficiency especially calcium, safety and the need to counter violence and bullying