



Curriculum and Content Choices

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Curriculum, defined

- The set of courses, activities, and learning experiences that students undertake in order to achieve specific educational goals.
- Why is it important: Curriculum provides structure and direction to learning, ensuring that students receive a coherent and comprehensive education.



Types of Curriculum

- Explicit
- Implicit
- Null
- Hidden
- Extracurriculum

Explicit/Visible

- The courses, content, and what you plan to teach in an organized manner.
- This is intentional content, as it is taught in schools due to mandate at the federal, state, and/or district levels.
- In other words, it is formal curriculum that is explicitly stated in course syllabi and learning objectives.



Some Examples of Explicit Curriculum

Mathematics: Arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division), geometry, algebra, statistics, and probability.

Science: Biology, physics, chemistry, earth science, environmental science, and astronomy.

English Language Arts: Reading comprehension, writing (including grammar and mechanics), speaking, and listening.

Social Studies: History, geography, government, economics, and anthropology.

Physical Education: Fitness, sportsmanship, team building, and motor skills.

Art: Drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and art history.

Music: Singing, playing instruments, music theory, and music history.

Foreign Language: Vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and cultural understanding.

Hidden Curriculum

- Implicit messages that are conveyed through the structure and organization of schools, such as the importance of punctuality, obedience, and conformity.

Importance of the Hidden Curriculum



The hidden curriculum can shape students' attitudes and behaviors by reinforcing certain social norms and values.



Examples of the hidden curriculum in practice: For example, school uniforms or dress codes can enforce conformity and discourage individual expression, while standardized testing can prioritize rote learning over creativity or critical thinking.

Invisible / Hidden



What is it?



Share some
examples of
hidden
curriculum



Activities such as athletics, band, choir, dance team, math club, GSA

Extracurriculum

Extracurriculars
lead to...

Increase in self-
confidence



Decrease in
racism and
xenophobia



Goal-driven
behavior to
increase chances
of success



Higher
standardized test
scores



Null Curriculum

- The content that is not taught in class even though it would be relevant to what is being taught in the explicit curriculum.
- This is typically culturally or politically sensitive content.
- The null curriculum includes content banned by the state, content the administration doesn't want the teacher to discuss, content the teacher chooses to teach or avoid due to their biases.

Importance of the Null Curriculum

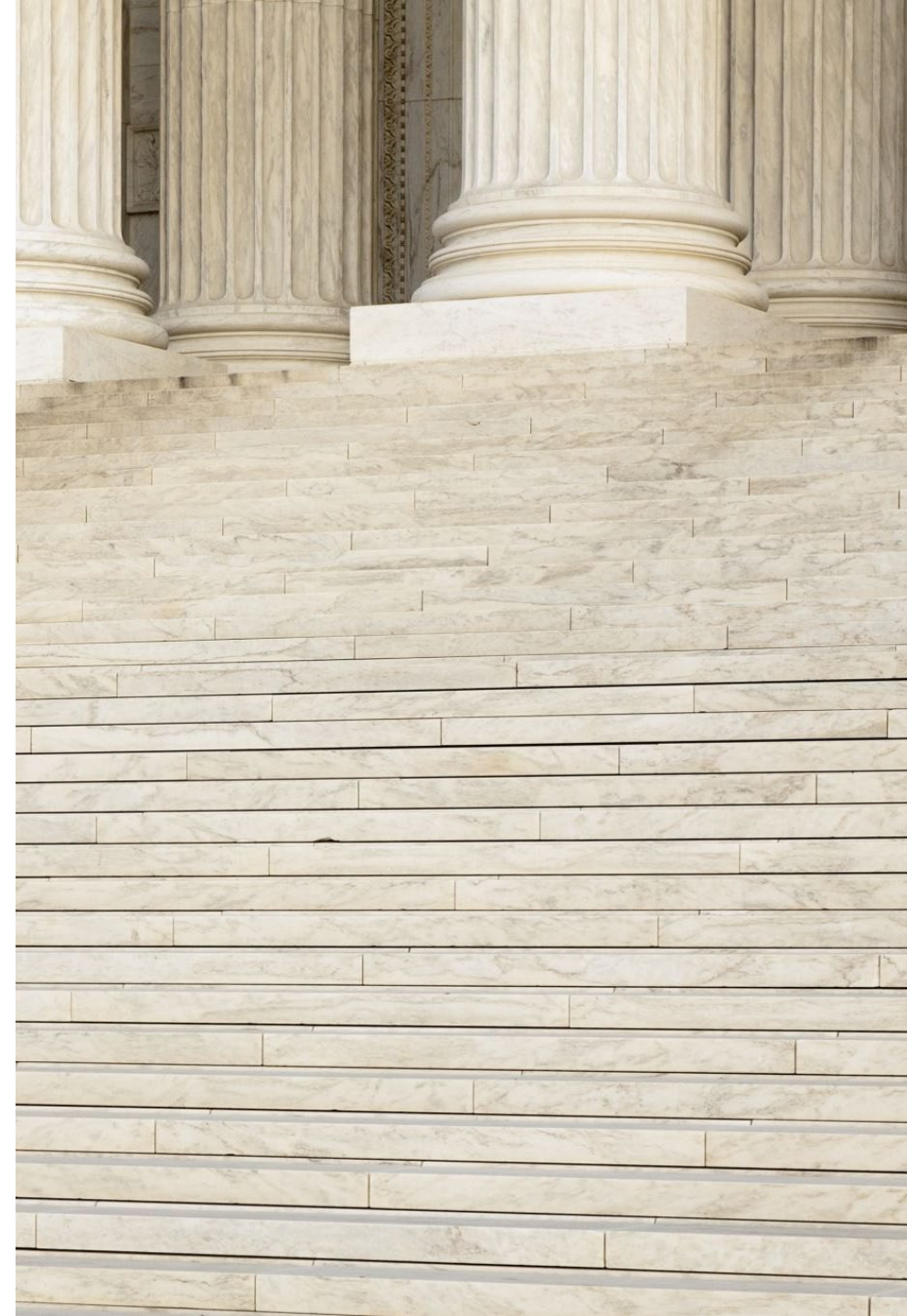
The null curriculum can shape students' attitudes and beliefs by reinforcing certain cultural values and excluding others.

- Examples of the null curriculum in practice: the history of marginalized groups such as LGBTQ+ people, indigenous peoples, or minorities is often excluded from the curriculum, which can perpetuate stereotypes and contribute to social inequality.

Rights

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

-First Amendment of the United States Constitution ratified
December 15, 1791



Glimpse of books that have been challenged or banned...

- 1. Thirteen Reasons Why:** Jay Asher
- 2. And Tango Makes Three:** Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
- 3. Stamped (for kids) Racism, Antiracism, and You:** Sandra Cherry-Paul, Jason Reynolds, and Ibram X. Kendi
- 4. The Truth About Alice:** Jennifer Mathieu
- 5. Nineteen Minutes:** Jodi Picoult
- 6. Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl:** Anne Frank
- 7. The Family Book:** Todd Parr
- 8. This Book is Gay:** Juno Dawson
- 9. Uncle Bobby's Wedding:** Sarah Brannen

Address the following:

1. Summarize the book including the main topic(s).
2. Explain why the author decided to write it.
3. Why do those opposed to the book challenge or want it banned?
 1. What topics in the book do those opposed deem offensive or developmentally inappropriate?
 2. Are they speaking truth or do you feel they want it banned for another reason? Use critical thinking. Things aren't always as they seem.
4. Do you agree that it should be banned?
 1. Why?
5. If you think the book is acceptable, what grade level is it appropriate for?