



MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC FIRE AND SAFETY EDUCATION CURRICULUM PLANNING GUIDEBOOK ©

WORD	DEFINITION	WORD	DEFINITION
activities	A specified pursuit in which a person partakes. b. An educational process or procedure intended to stimulate learning through actual experience.	affection	1. A tender feeling toward another; fondness. 2. Often affections. Feeling or emotion.
arson	The crime of maliciously, voluntarily, and willfully setting fire to the building, buildings, or other property of another or of burning one's own property for an improper purpose.	behavior	1. The manner in which one behaves. 2. Psychology. The actions or reactions of persons or things in response to external or internal stimuli.
boiler	An enclosed vessel in which water is heated and circulated, either as hot water or as steam, for heating or power.	bomb	1. An explosive weapon detonated by impact, a timing mechanism, or other means. 2. Any of various weapons detonated to release destructive material, such as smoke or gas.
burn	1.a. To cause to undergo combustion. b. To destroy with fire. c. To consume (fuel or energy, for example). 2. To damage or injure by fire, heat, radiation, electricity, or a caustic agent.	carbon monoxide	A colorless, odorless, highly poisonous gas, CO, formed by the incomplete combustion of carbon or a carbonaceous material, such as gasoline
classroom	1. A room or place especially in a school in which classes are conducted.	communication	1.a. The exchange of thoughts, messages, or information, as by speech, signals, writing, or behavior. b. Interpersonal rapport.
community	1.a. A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government. b. The district or locality in which such a group lives. 2.a. Similarity or identity. b. Sharing, participation, and fellowship.	competence	1.a. The state or quality of being adequately or well qualified; ability. b. A specific range of skill, knowledge, or ability.
concepts	1. A general idea derived or inferred from specific instances or occurrences. 2. Something formed in the mind; a thought or notion.	conduction	The transmission or conveying of something through a medium or passage, especially the transmission of electric charge or heat through a conducting medium without perceptible motion of the medium itself.
conduction	1 : the act of conducting or conveying 2 : transmission through or by means of a conductor ; <i>also</i> : the transfer of heat through matter by communication of kinetic energy from particle to particle with no net displacement of the particles	convection	1. Physics. a. Heat transfer in a gas or liquid by the circulation of currents from one region to another. b. Fluid motion caused by an external force such as gravity.



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creativity	1. Having the ability or power to create. 2. Productive; creating. 3. Characterized by originality and expressiveness; imaginative. ** see other "creativity" **	creativity	Curriculum that is developed with the intent to stimulate the learners sense of problem solving, accomplishment and interest. Lessons should be presented that combine left and right brain thinking. (Ex.) Logic with intuition.
curriculum	1. All the courses of study offered by an educational institution. 2. A group of related courses, often in a special field of study.	customer	1. Informal. An individual with whom one must deal.
cyclone	Meteorology. An atmospheric system characterized by the rapid, inward circulation of air masses about a low-pressure center, usually accompanied by stormy, often destructive, weather.	danger	1. Exposure or vulnerability to harm or risk. 2. A source or an instance of risk or peril. 3. Obsolete. Power, especially power to harm.
design	1.a. To conceive or fashion in the mind; invent. b. To formulate a plan for; devise. 2. To plan out in systematic, usually graphic form.	detector	One that detects, especially a mechanical, electrical, or chemical device that automatically identifies or registers a stimulus, such as a change in temperature (heat detector) or smoke.
develop	To cause gradually to acquire a specific role, function, or form, as: a. To influence the behavior of toward a specific end. b. To make available and effective to fulfill a particular end or need.	drill	1.a. Disciplined, repetitious exercise as a means of teaching and perfecting a skill or procedure. b. A task or exercise for teaching a skill or procedure by repetition.
education	1. The knowledge or skill obtained or developed by a learning process. 2. A program of instruction of a specified kind or level.	emergency	1. A serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly and demands immediate action. 2. A condition of urgent need for action or assistance. 3. When someone needs help.
escape	1. To break loose from confinement; get free. 2. To issue from confinement or an enclosure; leak or seep out.	essential	1. Constituting or being part of the essence of something; inherent. 2. Basic or indispensable; necessary.
evaluate	1. To ascertain or fix the value or worth of. 2. To examine and judge carefully; appraise.	exit	1. The act of going away or out. 2. A passage or way out consisting of three parts; exit access, exit door and exit discharge.



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explore	1. To investigate systematically; examine. 2. To search into or travel in for the purpose of discovery.	explosion	A release of mechanical, chemical, or nuclear energy in a sudden and often violent manner with the generation of high temperature and usually with the release of gases.
extension activities	Those activities that will continue the learners' acquisition of skill and knowledge. (Ex.) Homework, projects, group activities, field trips or further lessons on the subject.	extinguish	To put out (a fire, for example); quench.
false alarm	1. An emergency alarm, such as a fire alarm, that is set off unnecessarily. 2. A signal or warning that is groundless.	fire	1.a. A rapid, persistent chemical change that releases heat and light and is accompanied by flame, especially the exothermic oxidation of a combustible substance.
fire extinguisher	A portable apparatus containing chemicals that can be discharged in a jet to extinguish a small fire.	firefighter	A member of a fire department who fights fires.
first aid	Emergency treatment administered to an injured or sick person before professional medical care is available.	flames	The zone of burning gases and fine suspended matter associated with rapid combustion; a hot, glowing mass of burning gas or vapor.
furnace	An enclosure in which energy in a non thermal form is converted to heat, especially such an enclosure in which heat is generated by the combustion of a suitable fuel.	gas	1. A substance in the gaseous state. 2. A gaseous fuel, such as natural gas. 3. Gasoline. 4. The speed control of a gasoline engine. 5. A gaseous asphyxiant, irritant, or poison. ** see liquid ** see solid
guidebook	A handbook of directions and other information. ** see handbook	handbook	1. A concise manual or reference book providing specific information or instruction about a subject or place.
hazard	1. A chance; an accident. 2. A chance of being injured or harmed; danger. 3. A possible source of danger.	heat	Physics. A form of energy associated with the motion of atoms or molecules and capable of being transmitted through solid and fluid media by conduction, through fluid media by convection, and through empty space by radiation.



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hurricane	1. A severe tropical cyclone originating in the equatorial regions of the Atlantic Ocean or Caribbean Sea, traveling north, northwest, or northeast from its point of origin, and usually involving heavy rains.	impairment	To cause to diminish, as in strength, value, or quality.
inter discipline	Curriculum that would be applicable to any academic area. (Ex.) The study of fire safety can be approached from a science, social studies, health, math or language arts perspective.	interdisciplinary	Of, relating to, or involving two or more academic disciplines that are usually considered distinct.
kindergarten	A program or class for four-year-old to six-year-old children that serves as an introduction to school.	lesson	1. Something to be learned. 2.a. A period of instruction; a class. b. An assignment or exercise in which something is to be learned. c. The act or an instance of instructing; teaching.
level	Being at the same height or position as another; even. b. Being at the same degree of rank, standing, or advantage as another; equal.	liquid	1.a. The state of matter in which a substance exhibits a characteristic readiness to flow, little or no tendency to disperse, and relatively high incompressibility. ** see solid ** see gas
long block	Classes (typically at the secondary level) which are double the average length of time. (Ex.) 85 - 90 min. This trend presumes that the student will have a longer, more concentrated time in which to acquire the skills & knowledge.	multicultural	1. Of, relating to, or including several cultures. 2. Curriculum that presents material in a manner that is sensitive and supportive to the social and ethnic heritage of the student population.
nursery school	A school for children, usually between the ages of three and five, who are not old enough to attend kindergarten. —nursery schooler n.	object lesson	1. A concrete illustration of a moral or principle. 2. A lesson taught by using a material object.
objectives	1. Something that actually exists. 2. Something worked toward or striven for; a goal.	outcome	A natural result; a consequence.
poison	1. A substance that causes injury, illness, or death, especially by chemical means. 2. Something destructive or fatal.	practice	1. To do or perform (something) repeatedly in order to acquire or polish a skill. 2. To give lessons or repeated instructions to; drill.



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praise	1. Expression of approval, commendation, or admiration. 2. The extolling or exaltation of a deity, ruler, or hero.	preschool	1. Of, relating to, intended for, or being the early years of childhood that precede the beginning of elementary school. 2. A school for children who are not old enough to attend kindergarten; a nursery school.
presentation	3.a. Something, such as an award or a gift, that is offered or given. b. Something, such as a lecture or speech, that is set forth for an audience.	prevention	1. The act of preventing or impeding. 2. A hindrance; an obstacle.
pull station	1. a fire alarm device mounted on a wall, usually near an exit, that will sound the fire alarm when activated.	radiation	1. Physics. a. Emission and propagation of energy in the form of rays or waves. b. Energy radiated or transmitted in the form of rays, waves, or particles.
rationale	1. Fundamental reasons; the basis. 2. An exposition of principles or reasons	reference	1.a. A note in a publication referring the reader to another passage or source. b. The passage or source so referred to. c. A work frequently used as a source.
reinforcement	A condition that increases the likelihood that a given response will recur in a situation like that in which the reinforcing condition originally occurred.	resources	1. Something that can be used for support or help. 2. Often resources. An available supply that can be drawn on when needed.
safety	1. The condition of being safe; freedom from danger, risk, or injury.	scald	1. To burn with hot liquid or steam. 2. To subject to boiling water. 3. To heat almost to the boiling point (cooking).
smoke	1. The vaporous system made up of small particles of carbonaceous matter in the air, resulting mainly from the burning of organic material, such as wood or coal. 2. The unburned products of combustion containing heat, poisons and toxins	solid	1.a. Of definite shape and volume; not liquid or gaseous. b. Firm or compact in substance. ** see liquid ** see gas
space heater	An appliance that warms a small area, such as one room, typically by radiant electric heat.	special education	Classroom or private instruction involving techniques, exercises, and subject matter designed for students whose learning needs cannot be met by a standard school curriculum.



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sublimation	Chemistry. To cause (a solid or gas) to change state without becoming a liquid.	supplement	1. Something added to complete a thing, make up for a deficiency, or extend or strengthen the whole. 2. A section added to a book or document to give further information or to correct errors.
task force	2. A temporary grouping of individuals and resources for the accomplishment of a specific objective.	taskmaster	1. A man who imposes tasks, especially burdensome or laborious ones. 2. A source of burden or responsibility.
teaching	1. To impart knowledge or skill to. 2. To provide knowledge of; instruct in. 3. To cause to learn by example or experience.	topic	1. The subject of a speech, an essay, a thesis, or a discourse. 2. A subject of discussion or conversation. 3. A subdivision of a theme, or an outline.
tornado	A rotating column of air usually accompanied by a funnel-shaped downward extension of a cumulonimbus cloud and having a vortex several hundred yards in diameter whirling destructively at speeds of up to 500 mph	understand	1. To perceive and comprehend the nature and significance of; grasp. 2.a. To grasp or comprehend the meaning intended or expressed by (another). b. To comprehend language, sounds, form, or symbols
vapor	Barely visible or cloudy diffused matter, such as mist, fumes, or smoke, suspended in the air.	vocabulary	1. All the words of a language. 2. The sum of words used by, understood by, or at the command of a particular person or group.