

Curriculum Development

What is it?

- Curriculum development is the process of teachers working together to clearly identify their curriculum within the framework of content standards and curriculum materials,

Why is it important?

Curriculum Development is important because:

- It ensures articulation among grade levels.
- It assists teachers in the understanding of the development of skills and concepts across grade levels.
- It acknowledges that each person brings expertise and will contribute learning to the group.
- It ensures that students get skills at each grade level that contribute to the agreed upon end products.
- Participants create new knowledge that affects perspectives, practices and policies.

When is it useful?

Curriculum Development is useful when:

- When educators want to be clear about what students are learning, when and where.
- As a job-embedded practice for a school-wide articulation.

How is it used?

- All teachers examine the curriculum standards documents and identify what they teach actually teach in their classrooms.
- Grade level/department members share work and create a grade level/department set of agreements on what will be taught. All of this information is then shared in vertical teams, which are comprised of a member from each grade level or department.
- Apparent gaps and repetitions are identified and agreements are made on ways to handle these issues.
- Each department/grade level maps time necessary to teach all pieces of the curriculum and vertical teams share the information. Places where interdisciplinary instruction can take place are identified.

To learn more about curriculum Development, look at Jacobs, H.H. *Mapping the Big Picture: Integrating Curriculum and Assessment K-12*, Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.