



Monroe County Community School Corporation

A Tradition of Excellence

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Curriculum Mapping

A curriculum map provides an opportunity for educators to discuss what we want students to know and be able to do and how we determine the extent to which they know it or can do it. We create this opportunity for collaboration by asking ourselves the same questions and answering them using a common form. What is essential for students to know? What skills will they need to develop or apply this knowledge? What will they do to demonstrate that they have learned it? Curriculum mapping is not adventitious to what teachers have always done; rather it allows them to share their individual expertise and collaborate around what they do by answering shared questions on a shared instrument.

Curriculum mapping develops in phases over time. It begins with teachers indicating the content and essential questions, skills, and assessments they teach and use in the course of a year and when they teach and use them. This initial phase of mapping, an inventory of what teachers actually do, should take no longer than 90 minutes or so. Subsequent phases involve building-level teams of teachers discussing what is essential for students to know and be able to do and how best to assess completion of content and mastery of skills. Eventually, there will be corporation-level teams holding the same discussions. Once the process of curriculum mapping identifies essential content and skills, teachers can develop common assessments to provide teachers information about student achievement, information that will help them make instructional decisions.

Although our mission focuses and directs the work, the work on curriculum and assessment various schools have already begun will be folded into the larger MCCSC work. The Curriculum Department will facilitate this process at the corporation level and serve as a resource at the building level. As work progresses in your building, we are available to support principals' efforts as curricular leader. This year, the corporation goal is to map writing and mathematics curriculum at the elementary and secondary level and to provide support to buildings that desire to go beyond writing and mathematics in their curricular work. As we work with various schools, we will be contacting you regarding opportunities to collaborate as individual schools toward developing a shared curricular vision.

This work is not as arduous as it is important. As stakes become higher for students, we as educators must step up to the increasingly difficult task of supporting students. We can do more for students by working together; curriculum mapping provides the place for that collaboration.