

PENNRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

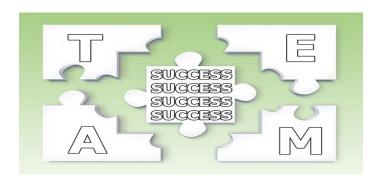
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Curriculum Design Process and Practices

The Pennridge School District believes that curriculum for all areas of study is the driver for teachers to delineate content, skills, instructional strategies, learning experiences, assessments, and academic standards. To provide exceptional curriculum to all students in the Pennridge School District, a process that includes teachers, students, parents, administrators, and, when appropriate, additional experts in the field for which the curriculum is being developed will meet as a committee to share ideas and expertise.

Once the curriculum for a particular course is complete, the Assistant Superintendent and Curriculum Supervisor will present the course to the Curriculum Committee for review. Once reviewed and approved by the committee, the curriculum will be added to a School Board meeting agenda for final approval.

Once approved by the School Board of Directors, the curriculum will be added into the Atlas Platform for community view. However, learning experiences/formative and summative assessments will not appear in Atlas, as it would compromise the integrity of student performance.



Mission Statement

It is paramount that our students graduate with knowledge of their talents, passions and what is necessary for them to remain life-long learners and productive citizens. These objectives need to be accomplished in a community-oriented environment that is safe, welcoming, nurturing, student-centered and respectful of all. As such, the mission of the Pennridge School District is as follows:

The Curriculum Writing Process

Curriculum teams review the Pennsylvania, National, and/or Next Generation Science Standards to ensure the curriculum aligns to priority standards.

The teams work together to establish Big Ideas and Essential Questions to establish the "why" and "what" of the course, as well as to provide students with intriguing questions with which to engage.

Once the Big Ideas and Essential Questions are identified, curriculum teams identify the Content that will be used to meet the standard and identify the skills that will be developed to assist students in their learning.

Next, teams develop formative and summative assessments to determine if students have mastered the content and skills. This process is inclusive of developing end of unit assessments as well as checks for understanding throughout instruction. The checks for understanding help teachers to determine the interventions and enrichment opportunities needed to support student progress.

After the assessments have been established, **Learning Experiences** are designed to provide experiential learning opportunities for students with which to engage and build deeper understanding.

All students are assessed at the end of the unit to determine student achievement. Once a unit is taught and assessments are examined by each teacher, all teachers of the course meet to discuss what was successful and what adjustments may be needed. In that way, the curriculum process is **Reflective and Responsive**, and not simply a cyclical review to be completed at the end of a school year.



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