Common Essential Standard Assessment (CESA)

Essential Standards

Impact:

Focusing on **Essential Standards** allows us to target the skills and knowledge that matter most for student success. While we continue to teach **all standards**, Essential Standards are taught to **proficiency**, ensuring that every student has the time and support to learn what is truly critical.

Essential Standards allow instruction to be more intentional, meaningful, and impactful. This is the important work that happens within your **collaborative teams** as you plan, teach, and assess together to guarantee learning for all.

During the 2024–25 school year, 6-12 ELA teachers **collaboratively narrowed** essential standards and began developing CESAs intentionally aligned to those standards.

Common Essential Standard Assessment

The Common Essential Standards Assessments (CESAs) are intentionally **aligned** with the essential standards identified by 6th–12th grade DVUSD ELA teachers, ensuring a clear focus on critical learning targets.

They provide teachers and collaborative teams with consistent **data** to identify students who need additional support or are ready for extension, while also offering valuable insight so teachers can share effective **instructional strategies.**

Backwards Design Planning

CESAs, available in SchoolCity, provide teachers with a picture of what students must know and be able to do. Using a **backwards design approach**, teachers can plan instruction by starting with the essential skills students need to master, while incorporating **supporting standards** to build a strong pathway toward that goal.