

CURRICULUM COUNCIL — MEETING OVERVIEW & UPDATES

Westminster School District | May 4, 2026 | 3:15–4:45 PM

Meeting Overview

The May 2026 Curriculum Council convened to review progress on key district-wide instructional initiatives, share rotation station updates, evaluate technology applications, and align on timelines heading into Summer and Fall 2026. The session centered on five outcomes: Matrix Morph updates, math matrix alignment post-adoption, professional development priorities, technology app evaluation criteria, and next steps through the 2026–27 school year.

1. Matrix Morph & Math Matrix Alignment (R2)

Matrix Morph Status

The 5×5 matrix refinement process is well underway. Key milestones to date:

- Feedback has been gathered from one teacher per grade level per site, covering Cycle 1–5 alignment, successes, and challenges
- Teams have reviewed standards sequencing, identified gaps, and proposed adjustments
- Ed Services is currently finalizing the sequence to remove redundancies and strengthen K–8 vertical coherence. (In Progress)
- A 25-question assessment blueprint is being developed and is undergoing teacher and technical expert vetting, with transition to the Pear platform underway. (In Progress)

Math Alignment Updates

Following the completion of math pilot alignment sessions, feedback has been synthesized across sites. The district is now focused on:

- Calibrating the math matrix post-adoption for K–8 under the new curriculum
- Ensuring rigor and vertical alignment in new instructional resources
- Supporting teachers with CFA (Common Formative Assessment) writing in math and Notebook/Student Journal implementation

Curriculum Structure Notes

- Curriculum is organized in cycles aligned to priority standards.
- End-of-unit assessments include two matrices per cycle.
- Emphasis is placed on "carryover" learning — building on insights from the previous year.

2. Professional Development Needs & Support (R1)

Teams reflected on impactful PD from 2025–26 and identified priorities heading into 2026–27. The following needs and structures emerged from the rotation:

Summer 2026 Priorities

- Continue Math: Support for new curriculum rollout, including dELD (Designated ELD) with flexible full-day or half-day scheduling options.
- Classroom Strategy: Discussion around limiting unnecessary educational technology to maintain instructional focus.
- Teacher Planning Time: Dedicated time built into summer PD for teacher collaboration and preparation.

2026–27 School Year Focus Areas- Middle School

- **Emphasis on argumentative writing and "Write From the Beginning and Beyond" (WFBB).** Writing & Literacy:
- **AI fluency training for educators to support responsible and effective tech integration.** Technology:
- **Implementation of "Visible Thinking" routines and "Building Thinking Classrooms" structures.** Instructional Frameworks:
- **Ongoing support for the new math curriculum (TK-8), including CFA writing and student notebook/journal implementation.** Math Support:

Structures That Support Transfer

Council members noted that PD is most effective when paired with coaching cycles, PLCs, modeling, co-teaching, and structured follow-up. The following support structures are confirmed for 2026–27:

- Matrix Morph PD
- Pear Assessment Training (August 2026— all certificated staff)
- Instructional Walks (Tier 1 focus)

3. Technology App Evaluation

The council established shared criteria for evaluating supplemental educational technology before purchase. Apps reviewed included ALEKS, ST Math, Thinking Maps (TMLC), MyON, and SORA. Evaluation is guided by four criteria:

Alignment	Does the tool directly support the 25 priority standards and PLC cycle work?
Usability	Is the platform intuitive for teachers? Does it reduce or add friction?
Data Quality	Does it produce timely, actionable data that supports DRS conversations?
Student Impact	Is there evidence it improves outcomes — especially for unduplicated students?

Pear Assessment continues its Spring 2026 trial, with a full launch planned for Fall 2026 and a dedicated PD Day training in August 2026.

4. 2026–27 Cycle & Assessment Calendar

The following cycle structure has been adopted for 2026–27. Grades 3–8 are required to complete 4 cycles; TK–2 continues with 5 cycles.

Cycle	Instructional Window	Days	Assessment Window
Cycle 1	9/08 – 10/13	26	10/14 – 10/16
Cycle 2	10/26 – 12/08	25	12/09 – 12/11
Cycle 3	1/11 – 2/16	24	2/17 – 2/19
Cycle 4	3/01 – 4/13	26	4/14 – 4/16
Cycle 5 (TK–2 only)	4/26 – 5/25	22	5/26 – 5/28*

**Cycle 5 assessment is optional for 3rd–8th grade.*

5. Next Steps & Timeline

April 2026	Complete Matrix Morph site sessions — return feedback to Ed Services.
May 2026	Pear Assessment trial continues — submit platform feedback.
June 2026	Summer working groups form — teachers and principals/APs.
August 2026	Pear platform training for all certificated staff.
Fall 2026	Full 2026–27 launch: 4 cycles (Gr. 3–8), Pear, refined matrix, WIN/RTI.

Next Curriculum Council Meeting: Monday, June 2, 2026 · 3:15–4:45 PM