

Rhode Island Curriculum Definition: Talking Points

History

As part of an overall strategy to have high-quality curriculum in all Rhode Island schools, the Rhode Island Department of Education felt it was an important first step to develop common language about curriculum. This effort starts with a definition of curriculum of which the whole state is aligned. The initial draft was created internally by RIDE's, cross-office team of content, curriculum, English Language Learner and special education specialists. RIDE received feedback on the first draft from a variety of stakeholders- classroom teachers, curriculum directors, English Language and Special Education administrators, and other central office administration- in a series of meetings throughout the state. This feedback was aggregated and incorporated into the final draft.

Purpose

The purpose of this definition is to ground all conversations related to high-quality curriculum. This shared curriculum definition will serve as a way for RIDE to communicate with education administrators and leaders through the work of adoption, implementation and evaluation of high quality curriculum.

How to Use

The curriculum definition is divided into two sections: overall definition and components. The overall definition outlines the major ideas and general philosophies. The components provide further detail on each separate element of the definition: goals, methods, materials and assessment. Each section is complementary. While the overall definition can stand alone, each component cannot be used without the context of the overall definition and accompanying components.

