



Seymour Public Schools
Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat!

Vision for Curriculum Development

Seymour Public Schools believes all students should have access to a high quality and engaging education. These expectations will educate and inspire students through a wide range of experiences that reflect high expectations for learning and prepare our students for an ever-changing world.

The curriculum is content rich, offering students opportunities to learn important concepts and procedures with understanding, while simultaneously providing students with opportunities to explore and grow in identified Vision of a Graduate Indicators. These multi-disciplinary outcomes (effective communicator; critical thinker; emotional intellect; problem-solver; and self-director) are thoughtfully and purposefully embedded throughout the curriculum alongside content that is informed by state and national standards.

A common language is articulated accurately, reflecting accepted practices within the discipline and current educational research while promoting the work of the discipline. The written documents for each grade level include key required components, such as the scope of the material and the depth of understanding expected upon unit completion.

Maps for courses and grade levels define the pace and common expectations of a content. Teachers use these maps to guide and sequence instruction toward the attainment of key concepts detailed in the unit design.

Unit design follows the Understanding by Design (UbD) Model by Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins, adapted to align with Seymour's priorities. The UbD model consists of three stages:

1. **Desired Results** – What students will know and be able to do as a result of participating in the unit.

2. **Evidence of Learning** – Valid, varied, and reliable assessments that include formative and summative measures.
3. **The Learning Plan** – A range of learning experiences that prepare students to demonstrate the desired results.

K-12 Alignment

Vertical alignment is assured through guiding documents in each discipline that combine the priorities in state/national documents, Seymour’s Vision of a Graduate Indicators, and long-term student outcomes.

Continuity in instruction, across a grade level and within a content, is developed by assured learning experiences, or key cognitive learning experiences. The goal is to help learners to process, rehearse, store, or transfer new learning or tasks that create experiences for students to demonstrate increasing proficiency on the specified content.

Knowledgeable teachers have adequate resources to support their work and are continually growing as professionals. Professional Development is a priority as we develop curriculum that requires teachers to build an instructional repertoire to allow our students to explore both content and Vision of a Graduate Indicators.

Assessment

The principle of assessing what we value—and valuing what we assess—drives our assessment system. Each unit’s assessment measures content knowledge, conceptual understanding, Vision of a Graduate Indicators, and the ability to apply learning to authentic problems as outlined in curricular documents.

Common assessments at the grade level and course level are analyzed to examine student learning and inform curriculum, instruction, and assessment revisions. Common formative assessments at all levels support informed teaching that addresses individual, small-group, and whole-group needs. Both formative and summative assessments have clear criteria and identify areas where students can make further progress.

Performance-based assessments and other common summative assessments measure student understanding and the ability to transfer learning effectively.

Vision of a Graduate

Our mission is to prepare graduates with the essential skills and knowledge that empower them to thrive in their personal and professional lives. The Vision of a Graduate team is dedicated to shaping a distinct and identifiable district fingerprint that

represents our identity, embodying the core principles and values at the heart of our community.