



A Guaranteed Viable Curriculum

Curriculum is not new to BVSD, but the curriculum review and revision undertaken in 2008-2009 was unprecedented in our district. Teachers, administrators and content specialists updated previously adopted BVSD curricula at all levels and within multiple content areas -- art, health, mathematics, music, physical education, reading, science, social studies, Spanish language arts, world languages and writing. It was a massive undertaking, but as many researchers in the field of education state, "The key to student success is ensuring every student has access to a guaranteed, viable curriculum."

A viable curriculum is one that can be taught in the time allotted for instruction in a school year. A guaranteed curriculum is one which school officials—teachers, support staff and administrators—actually take off the shelf and teach -- providing the necessary learning experiences and supports for students to achieve . We now have a viable curriculum in BVSD in all subjects listed above. The BVSD Curriculum Essentials Document is the foundation of curriculum, assessment and instruction starting August 2009.

Through professional development this year, we will start the journey of becoming familiar with changes in the curricula, creating planning documents with fellow teachers to map out when essential learnings are taught and developing assessments to ensure they are learned. Implementing invigorated curricula is no small feat. It will take many hours for teachers and school leaders to reach full implementation, but in the end it will be more in sync with what educators in each field believe students should know and be able to do as new century graduates. For a view of the curriculum please visit:

- <http://bvsd.org/curriculum/curriculum/Pages/default.aspx>