

Louisiana Believes

Am I Doing this Right?
Quality Curriculum Implementation

Welcome!

Please sign-in to this session by completing this very brief survey:

<https://goo.gl/forms/DBMiJF2O7NwVQDPg1>

Outcomes

In this session, we will:

- Describe the benefits of choosing a high-quality curriculum
- Describe the criteria for high-quality implementation
- Practice evaluating the quality of curriculum implementation using a case study
- Create a plan for conducting a similar analysis in your LEA

Agenda

- The case for quality curriculum
- Criteria for high-quality implementation
- Evaluating the quality of curriculum implementation
- Creating a plan for your LEAs
- Next steps



The Case for Quality Curriculum

The Case for Quality Curriculum



Why is Curriculum Important?

Read the excerpt from the Fordham Institute article ["Failing by Design: How We Make Teaching Too Hard for Mere Mortals"](#)

With a partner, discuss:

- What in the excerpt affirmed your thoughts about curriculum?
- What in the excerpt challenged your thoughts about curriculum?
- What is the value of a high-quality curriculum to student learning?

Choose a Quality Curriculum

"Even if teachers were taught about instructional design, they would likely not have the time to prepare instructional materials, field test those materials to determine if they are effective, and modify the materials before using them to teach students. An iterative process is crucial for the development of effective materials," Stein points out.

- Getting a top tier curriculum into the hands of teachers is a first crucial step to improving classroom instruction.
- The next step is ensuring that teachers implement that curriculum effectively so it has the intended impact.

Criteria for High-Quality Implementation

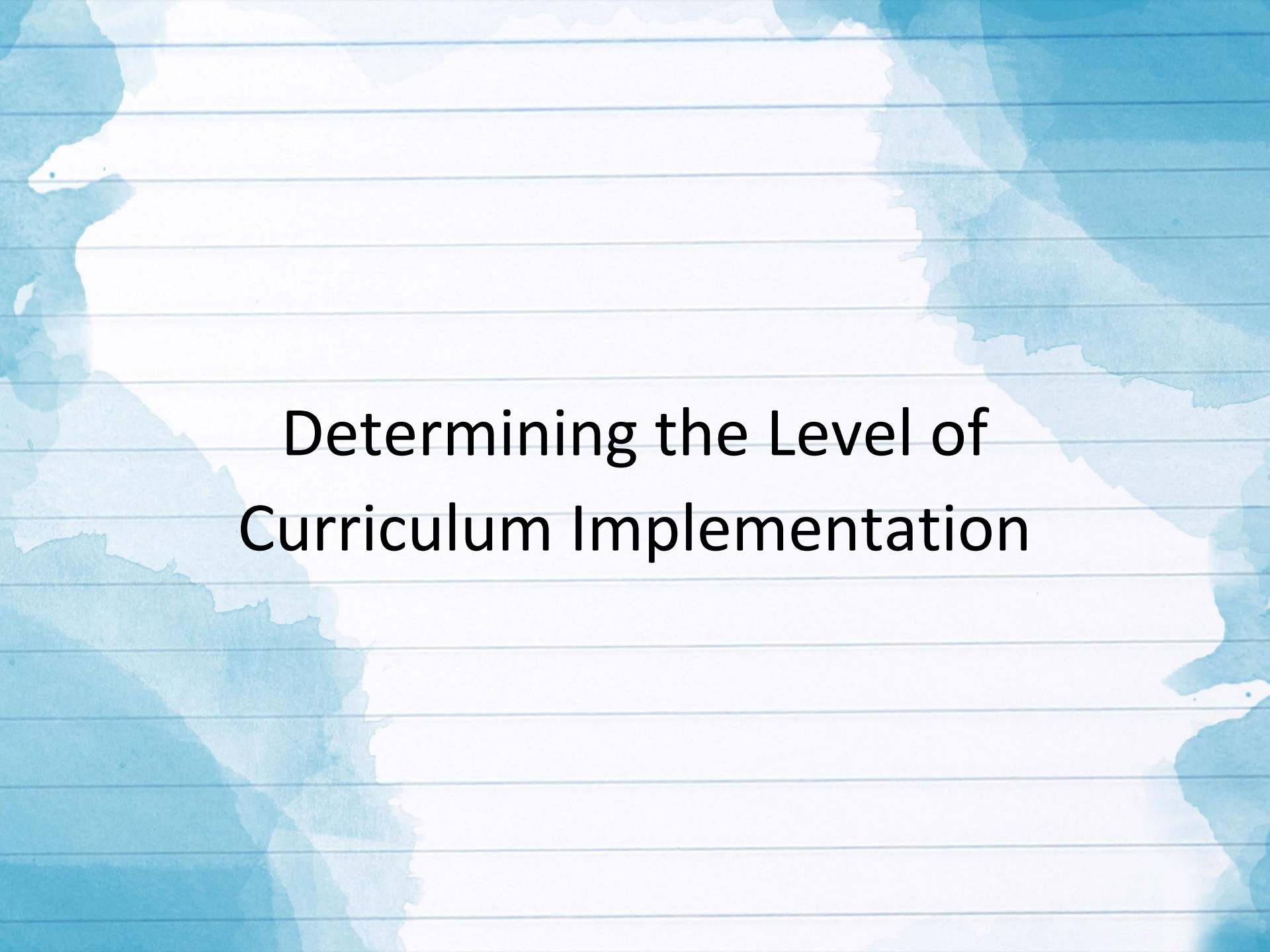
Curriculum Implementation Scale

The Department has created the **Curriculum Implementation Scale** (see handout) to help districts and schools:

- Understand the components of strong implementation
- Evaluate the level of implementation in the district or school
- Provide resources and support to ensure students reap the maximum benefit of a high-quality curriculum

Discuss with a partner and be prepared to share:

- The key differences you see from stage to stage
- The challenges an LEA might face at each level
- Additional criteria you think should be added to this rubric



Determining the Level of Curriculum Implementation

Curriculum Implementation Case Study

Unicorn District:

- Number of schools: 20 schools
- Primary K-2 ELA curriculum: Core Knowledge
- Primary 3-12 ELA curriculum: Guidebooks 2.0
- Primary K-12 math curriculum: Eureka
- TAP in some schools
- Sent TLs to the Summit
- Hold quarterly planning meetings for content areas across the district

At your table:

- Review the additional artifacts for Unicorn District.
- Based on these artifacts, where is Unicorn District in terms of curriculum implementation in ELA and math? (Discuss both)
- Be prepared to share your evaluation and rationale.



Creating Your Plan for Diagnosing Your Curriculum Implementation Level

Creating Your Plan

What process will you use to diagnose the curriculum implementation stage at the school or district?

- Consider:
 - What **actions/steps** will need to be taken?
 - What **questions** will need to be asked?
 - What **artifacts** will you need to gather?
- Record your plan on chart paper and post on the wall.

Tier 3 Curricula

Steps to make a Tier 3 curriculum work:

1. Use the [curriculum reviews](#) as a starting point to identify places where the curriculum is misaligned to the standards. Follow up with a more detailed study with content experts.
2. Provide additional tools and resources for teachers to fill any gaps/misalignments.
 - Revised scope and sequence
 - Replacement texts and revised questions
 - Replacement lesson plans/tasks
 - Replacement assessments
3. Create a comprehensive training plan for all teachers so they can avoid gaps/misalignments in their instruction.
 - Communicate curricular gaps and misalignments to teachers
 - Provide detailed training on how to make adjustments to the curriculum
 - Provide detailed training on how to teach added/adjusted content
4. Train teachers to analyze data and student work to determine if adjustments are addressing gaps/misalignments.
5. At the district level, conduct observations and analyze student results to determine whether the curriculum implementation strategy is leading to quality, aligned instruction in all classrooms.

Next Steps

1. Get an accurate picture of the curricula that teachers in each school in the district are using and the level at which they are implementing using the Curriculum Implementation Scale.
2. Attend the next Supervisor Collaboration, at which we will focus on how to help schools move from one level of implementation to the next. We'll explore:
 - What steps should we take if our schools are using a variety of curricula, some of which are high-quality and some of which are not?
 - What does a strong implementation plan look like?
 - What resources and tools are available to support me in this work?
3. Contact your network leader or LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov if you are interested in participating in a pilot in which the Department will heavily support you in this process.

Additional Readings

- [“The Hidden Value of Curriculum Reform: Do States and Districts Receive the Most Bang for Their Curriculum Buck?”](#) by Matt Chingos, Ulrich Boser and Chelsea Straus, Center for American Progress, 2015.
- [“Can Online Lessons Simplify Teaching”](#) by Robert Pondiscio, Education Gadfly, July 13, 2016. (This brief article gives an overview of the curriculum implications of this longer report, [“Simplifying Teaching: A Field Experiment with Online ‘Off-the-Shelf’ Lessons”](#) by Kirabo Jackson & Alexey Makarin, NBER Working Paper No 22398. July 2016.)
- [“Choosing Blindly: Instructional Materials, Teacher Effectiveness, and the Common Core”](#) by Matthew M. Chingos and Grover J. “Russ” Whitehurst
- [“Failing by Design: How We Make Teaching Too Hard for Mere Mortals”](#) by Robert Pondiscio