Tools for Creating, Adapting, and Implementing Model Curriculum Units

Whether you are in the process of adapting or implementing Model Curriculum Units or creating your own curriculum materials locally, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has tools to support your efforts. On both their main website and their YouTube channel, ESE features resources that can help educators with every step in the curriculum development process. Here is a survey of just some of the tools:

Looking for background information on what the Model Curriculum Unit Project is all about, and how MCUs are created? This video highlights the backward design process used to create the units, and discusses how teachers use their first-hand knowledge of student needs in the development process.

Unfamiliar with Model Curriculum Units? As part of a Race to the Top Grant, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) has developed over 100 Model Curriculum Units (MCUs.) Using the Understanding by Design model developed by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe, these MCUs were created by teams of teachers from across the Commonwealth with the assistance of the ESE.

There are many MCUs, spanning grade bands and curriculum areas!

To view a list of all MCUs, fill out the short registration form on the Model Curriculum section of the ESE website. You will receive an access link via email. Simply click the link to access MCUs. Every video icon in the list represents an implementation video.

Events

WGBH is out in the community and on-line, talking about the MCUs and digital resources to support you in the classroom. Look for us at these events, ask about our MCU flash drive giveaway, and sign up for our raffle prizes:

Massachusetts Reading Association
April 9-10
Quincy, MA
Watch for details about an ELA MCU Q&A session with MCU project leadership team member Sarah Churchill Silberman AND for details about how you can win a free registration for MRA conference attendance!
You can download the MCU lesson plan template from the MCU web page.

Want to see an MCU in action? Many of the MCUs on the ESE web site are accompanied by implementation videos, denoted by a video icon on the MCU web page. In this implementation video for the Grade 12 ELA unit *Hamlet and Psychological Criticism*, teacher Christopher Wright talks about research, and developing a thesis with a psychological perspective of a character from the play, supported by evidence from the text.

Finally, read how some districts that have implemented MCUs:

- The Attleboro Experience
- The Brockton Experience
- The Theodore Herberg Middle School in Pittsfield: One Teacher's Experience
- The Kelly Elementary School Experience in Chelsea