Model Curriculum Units: An Opportunity for Initiative Alignment

ESE Fall Curriculum Summit
Karen P. White, Sarah Churchill Silberman
October 27 and 28, 2014
We’re here to help!

Model Curriculum Units can connect multiple ESE initiatives.
Clarification of Terms

- Aligned Curriculum
- Standards
- Instruction
What is an MCU?

- an example of instruction that illustrates the type of teaching necessary to meet the standards;
- an opportunity to teach to the standards;
- an opportunity to gather evidence to meet Educator Evaluation Standards I and II; and
- a chance for students to engage in an open-ended, challenging, and standards-based unit of study.
ESE Core Strategies

Prepare all students for success after high school by:

- **Strengthening** curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- **Improving** educator effectiveness
- **Turning around** the lowest performing districts and schools
- **Using data and technology** to support student performance
Model Curriculum Project

- Frameworks aligned curriculum units to provide examples of 2011 ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks that incorporate the CCSS.
- Examples that to adopt, adapt, or use a starting point for your own work
- 100 units in four subject areas: ELA/Literacy, HSS, Math, and S/TE
Results of MCU Project

146 Model Curriculum Units: including CVTE, K-3 vertically aligned units on 7 topics, Financial Literacy, and more!

Free resource, available on web:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/

Videos
### What is a Model Curriculum Unit?

#### Stage 1: Desired Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Established Goals</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Students will be able to independently use their learning to...</em></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS</em></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Acquisition</th>
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<td><em>Students will know...</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Assessment Evidence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>CURRICULUM EMBEDDED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (PERFORMANCE TASKS)</em></td>
<td>PT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>OTHER EVIDENCE:</em></td>
<td>OE</td>
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#### Stage 3: Learning Plan

*Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction*

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What is a Model Curriculum Unit?

Turn and Talk

What do you see listed in the left-hand column labeled Established Goals?
Examples

English/Language Arts, Math, History and Social Science
ELA Grade 7 Analyzing Author’s Style- Macauley’s Unique Way...

Turn and Talk:

★ What are the Essential Questions and Understandings in this unit?
★ How would students answer these questions?
★ How would adults answer the questions?
ELA Grade 7 Analyzing Author’s Style- Macauley’s Unique Way...


Discuss:

★ What are the students and the teacher doing/discussing in the segment?
★ What are the students learning?
★ Which standards do you see addressed in the instruction?
ELA Grade 7 Analyzing Author’s Style- Macauley’s Unique Way...

★ Which Educator Evaluation standards and indicators would this example of instruction meet?
ELA Grade 7 Analyzing Author’s Style- Macauley’s Unique Way...

★ What is being asked in the CEPA—what will students have to do?
★ How does the performance assessment compare to a question in PARCC?
HSS US II African-American Civil Rights Movement

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HSS US II African-American Civil Rights Movement

Video Clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3d45GZm5YjI&feature=youtu.be.

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Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
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Math Grade 1 Math Detectives!
Properties of Operations

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Connections
MCUs Tying it all together
Current Experience in Districts

- Too many initiatives
- Already implementing Educator Evaluation framework, RETELL, DDMs, Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, district improvement plans, new standards for High-quality Professional Development, and PARCC
- Capacity is an issue
- **Blind devotion to the curriculum guide**
MCUs Connect to:

- Frameworks alignment: based on 2011 ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks, HSS, and draft S/TE.
- District Improvement Plans: examples of rigorous (challenging), standards-based curriculum and instructional practices
- Educator Evaluation: teaching a MCU addresses Standard I in the Ed Eval Rubric for teachers
- PARCC: the Curriculum Embedded Performance Assessments in the MCUS prepare students for the PARCC type assessment questions
MCUs Offer: One Resource

- Aligned curriculum
- Rigor, best practices
- Alignment with other initiatives
- Student engagement
New ESE Support for Implementation

★ $400,000 non-competitive grant to level 3, 4 and 5 districts around building aligned curriculum.

★ Grant creates time for teachers to work together on implementing a new MCU.
Building Aligned Curriculum Grant

- District provides:
  - Team of teachers (grade or subject)
  - Teacher Leader
  - Time for teacher leader to attend ESE trainings. Start dates Dec 3 and 4.
  - Time for team to plan
Building Aligned Curriculum Grant

ESE Provides:

★ Training: Teacher leader receives 25 hours
★ Model for implementation
★ Financial support for teams, teacher leader and materials
★ Technical Assistance: On-site to teams
Building Aligned Curriculum Grant

Funding:

★ Use of funds
★ Districts eligible for a range of funding
★ As a district receives more funding, the expectation is to field more teams
★ Each team needs a teacher leader who will teach or co-teach the unit.
Building Aligned Curriculum Grant

Outcomes:

★ More teachers with curriculum expertise
★ Improved student outcomes
★ More students reading, critiquing, discussing and debating ideas
MCUs Tying it all together
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Building Aligned Curriculum Grant

- Deadline to apply: November 14
- First training dates: December 3 and 4
- Level 3, 4, and 5 Districts, non-competitive
- Questions: Sarah Churchill Silberman or Karen White
- Details? One-pager, grants page, Commissioner’s Update, DSAC specialists
Questions

★ modelcurr@doe.mass.edu

★ Sarah Churchill Silberman,  
   X 3586, schurchill@doe.mass.edu

★ Karen P. White,  
   x 3588, kwhite@doe.mass.edu