Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department

December 2024

Dr. Benaquista, Superintendent of Schools

What is the role of the Curriculum and Instruction Department?

Curriculum Development and Alignment

Designing curricula that meet NJ Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), NJ mandates, and reflect diverse student needs.

What is the role of the Curriculum and Instruction Department?

Instructional Support

Providing educators with resources, professional development, and effective strategies for planning, instruction, assessment, and reflection.

What is the role of the Curriculum and Instruction Department?

Assessment and Evaluation of Student Progress

Developing assessments and systems to monitor student progress and inform instructional practices.

What is the role of the Curriculum and Instruction Department?

Integration of Technology and Innovation

Assisting educators with choosing and incorporating emerging technologies and innovative teaching methods to enhance learning experiences.

What is the role of the Curriculum and Instruction Department?

Equity and Inclusion

Ensuring curricula are inclusive and culturally responsive to serve all students effectively.

Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum

- Purpose
- Application
- Role

Technology

- Support instruction
- Support Assessment
- Data Gathering

Instruction

- Purpose
- Application
- Role

Assessment

- Purpose
- Application
- Role

Review of Data

- Purpose
- Application
- Role

Curriculum

Atlas curriculum platform

Parent workshops (e.g., ULearn)

Selection of high-quality instructional materials

- **Professional development**
- **Course audits**

New instructional program pilots

Instruction

Supports the implementation of high-quality instructional materials

Instructional coaches

WIN (What I need) and RTI Intervention programs (Response To Intervention), 504, Special Education

- **Professional development for administrators**

Tutoring and support opportunities

Assessment and Data

Data meetings

Walkthrough System

District assessment data

ScIP Teams (School Improvement Panels)

- **Instructional Coaches (5- 4 ELA 1 Math):**
  - **Collaborate with teachers to analyze assessment data**
  - **Support progress monitoring**
  - **Support teachers**

Integration of Technology and Innovation

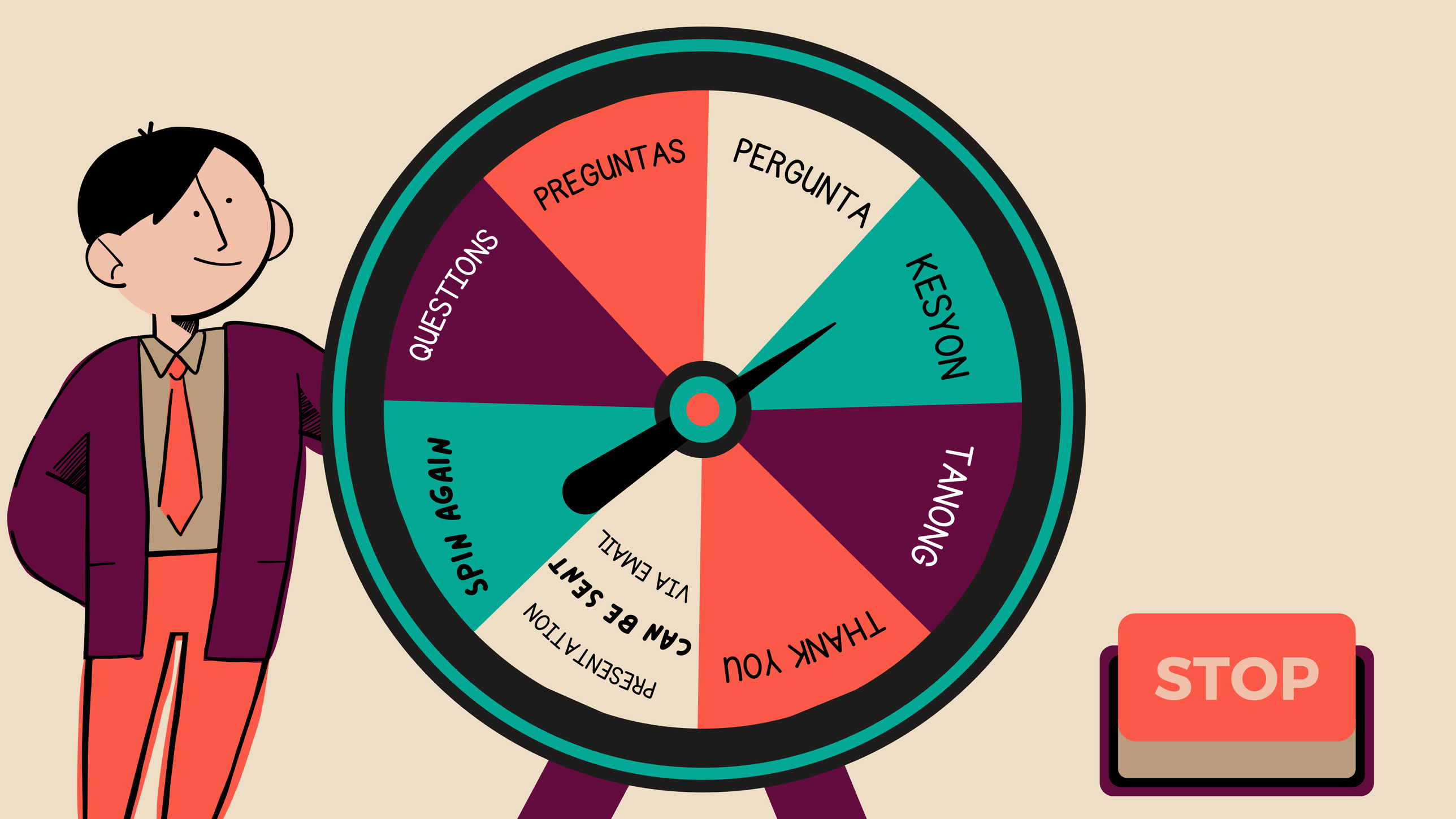
- Technology tools to support instruction and assessment
- Online publishing of resources
- Embedded technology into curriculum
- Technology-specific professional development opportunities
- Use of tools like iReady, IXL, LinkIt, or other platforms
- Use of learning management systems (LMS)
- Professional development on use of AI in classrooms
- STEAM Fair
- Digital tools for online assessments

Equity and Inclusion

- Multilingual Parent Advisory Committee, SEPAG
- Grading for Equity Committee
- Student opportunities (Scholar Academy, Seal of Biliteracy)
- Silas
- PBIS
- College and Trade School visits and instant decisions
- Guest speakers
- Student recognition programs (National Honors Society)

Equity and Inclusion

- Learning sessions for families
- District policies and regulations
- Monthly newsletters
- Town Hall Sessions
- Translation and interpretation services
- Increased multilingual communication
- Adult ESL Classes
- Reflect the identities and experiences of all students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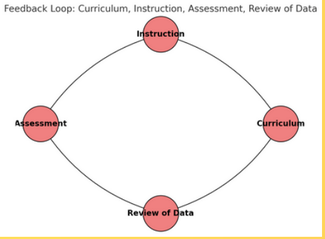


Curriculum Development

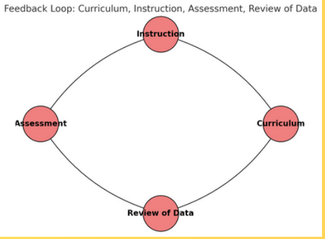
Purpose: Develop curricula that align with New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), which are state-mandated guidelines specifying what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Application: The curriculum incorporates core subjects such as mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies, along with electives and specialized courses.

Role in the Loop: The curriculum is the foundation, setting the expectations for instruction and assessment.

Curriculum Development and Alignment

- Atlas curriculum platform
- Selection of high-quality instructional materials
- New instructional program pilots
- Professional development
- Course audits
- Revises/Updates curriculum for existing courses
- Parent workshops (e.g., ULearn)



Instruction

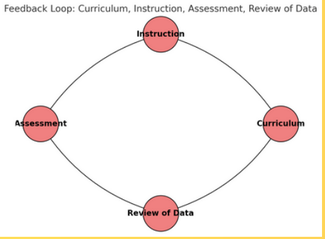
Purpose: Teachers deliver the curriculum using evidence-based instructional strategies and resources tailored to diverse learners.

Application: Professional development programs, coordinated by our district-level Curriculum and Instruction department, help teachers implement best practices.

Role in the Loop: Instruction transforms the curriculum into classroom practice, engaging students in active learning.

Instructional Support

- Professional development for administrators
- Supports the implementation of high-quality instructional materials
- Instructional coaches
- WIN (What I need) and RTI Intervention programs (Response To Intervention), 504, Special Education
- I&RS (Intervention and Referral Services)
- Tutoring and support opportunities

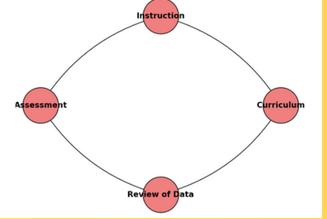


Assessment

Purpose: TUPS utilizes assessments [e.g., formative, summative, and standardized tests like the NJ Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA)] to evaluate student learning and mastery of the curriculum.

Application: Assessments provide immediate feedback to teachers and administrators about the effectiveness of instructional practices.

Role in the Loop: Assessment results highlight strengths and gaps in student learning, influencing instructional adjustments and curriculum refinement.



Review of Data

Purpose: Data from assessments and other performance metrics (e.g. attendance, graduation rates, iReady, IXL, LinkIt!) are analyzed to make informed decisions about educational practices and policies.

Application: Teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators conduct regular data reviews to identify trends, target areas for intervention, and develop action plans.

Role in the Loop: Reviewing data ensures that decision-making is grounded in evidence, closing the loop by driving curriculum revisions and instructional improvements.

Assessment and Review of Data

- Data meetings
- District assessment data
- ScIP Teams (School Improvement Panels)
- District-wide assessments
- Instructional Coaches (5- 4 ELA 1 Math):
    - Collaborate with teachers to analyze assessment data
    - Support progress monitoring
    - Support teachers in creating common assessments
- Walkthrough System