

Update on Remote Learning Program: Curriculum

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Introduction

- Commitment to transparency and responsibility
- Needs assessment and tools for ongoing local vetting: local vs. state
- Remote program: perceptions and design

Presentation Questions

- Which programs did we vet?
- What was our process?
- Who was involved?
- What is our recommendation and why?
- What have we learned?

Curriculum Selection Process

- In June, the Teaching and Learning Department began to vet online learning platforms for use during the 2020-21 school year Remote model.
- Staff reviewed Acellus, Edgenuity, Edmentum, and UC Scout using the following criteria:
 - Common Core and NGSS alignment
 - A-G alignment, AP courses available
 - Ease of use and TK-12 Program
 - Training needed to use the program
 - Cost
- Staff chose Acellus as it met our needs based on the above

Issues Raised by Staff and Community

On August 24, 2020 it was brought to our attention that Acellus was being pulled from some schools in Hawaii due to racist, sexist, and other inappropriate content.

Steps Taken to Address Concerns

Staff immediately took the following steps once concerns were raised:

- Contacted Acellus to determine their plan for addressing this issue
- Began a lesson-level vetting of Acellus using an equity focused model
- Contacted Edgenuity, Edmentum, Virtual K-12, and Florida Virtual Academy to review curriculum
- Developed an equity focused model to use to review curriculum

Equity Focused Model*

Check the illustrations. Look for stereotypes: *While stereotypes may not be this obvious, look for variations which may demean or ridicule characters because of their race or sex.*

Check the story line. Standard for success: *Does it take “white” behavior standards for a person of color to “get ahead”? Is this a singular, Eurocentric story?*

Look at the lifestyles. *Is the Person of Color depicted as “different,” are negative value judgments implied*

Weigh the relationships between people: *Do the whites in the story possess the power, take the leadership, and make the important decisions? Do people of color and females function in essentially supporting roles?*

Note the heroes: Ask this question: *“Whose interest is a particular hero really serving?”*

* Developed based on Washington Department of Education and AUSD Teaching and Learning Staff

Equity Focused Model*, continued...

Consider the effects on a child's self-image: *Ask this question: "Whose interest is a particular hero really serving?"*

Consider the author's or illustrator's background: *Analyze the biographical material on the jacket flap or the back of the book. What qualifies the author or illustrator to deal with the subject?*

Check out the author's perspective: *With the book /curriculum in question, read carefully to determine whether the direction of the author's perspective substantially weakens or strengthens the value of his/her written work.*

Watch for loaded words: *A word is loaded when it has insulting overtones. Examples of loaded adjectives (usually racist) are savage, primitive, conniving, lazy, superstitious, treacherous, wily, crafty, inscrutable, docile, and backward.*

Look at the copyright date: *Copyright dates, therefore, can be a clue as to how likely the book is to be overtly racist or sexist, although a recent copyright date, of course, is no guarantee of a book's relevance or sensitivity*

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New Remote Curriculum Vetting Process

- Instructional Coaches, Teaching and Learning Coordinators, Special Education Coordinators, and staff with students in the **Remote Program began the vetting process *using the Equity Model*^{*} as well as the following:**
 - Common Core and NGSS alignment
 - A-G alignment, AP courses available
 - Ease of use and TK-12 Program
 - Training needed to use the program
 - Cost
- Staff reviewed lessons in each program

^{*} *Developed based on Washington Department of Education and AUSD Teaching and Learning Staff*

Curriculum Vetting Results - Edgenuity

Edgenuity

	Aligns with our needs	Does not align with our needs
Equity Model	yes	
Common Core/NGSS aligned	yes	Concerns about some rigor
A-G aligned	yes	
AP Courses Offered	yes	
TK-12 aligned	yes	
Ease of use	Videos do most of the Tier 1 teaching	
Affordability	Yes- 64,400	
Start date	Approximately 10-14 days after PO	
Reviews	Edvocate Award	Reviews Petitions Assessment issues

Curriculum Vetting Results - Edmentum

Edmentum- Exact Path and Courseware

	Aligns with our needs	Does not align with our needs
Equity Model	yes (intentional- article here)	
Common Core/NGSS aligned	yes	
A-G aligned	yes	
AP Courses	yes	
TK-12 aligned	yes	
Ease of use	Exact Path Courseware Both are self-paced	
Affordability	\$38.00 TK-5 student Exact Path \$125 per 6-12 student PD \$5000	Must supplement Science and Social studies TK-5
Start date	Approximately 5 days after PO	
Reviews	Awards Reviews Article on Exact Path	

Edmentum Curriculum Examples

Expressions: Tutorial

< > 20 of 28 Save & Exit

The value of an algebraic expression depends on the value of each variable in the expression. In other words, the value of an algebraic expression changes for different values of the variables.

Let's take another look at the expression Jocelyn wrote and determine how long it will take her to complete 22 problems. In other words, let's evaluate her expression for $P = 22$.

$$\frac{5 + 4P}{60}$$

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Aa

Hula Contest

Exit

Learn to read words that do not have regular spellings.

Slide

An illustration of two children, a boy and a girl, standing outdoors. The boy is on the left, wearing a red cap and a red and white shirt. The girl is on the right, wearing an orange shirt and yellow pants. They are standing next to a sign that says "Hula Contest". The sign is on a wooden stand and has a pink background with the words "Hula Contest" in blue. The background shows a green field and a blue sky.

Start

Recommendation for New Curriculum

We are recommending Edmentum:

- Exact Path K-5 (with supplements for science, social studies, and TK)
- Courseware 6-12 (with supplements for some AP and language)

Next Steps

- Equity and anti-racist vetting process for all new as well as current curriculum
- Create feedback loop for students and families to share feedback on curriculum (both in Remote this year and for all curriculum moving forward) to use for future decision making and adjustments this year
- Professional Learning for Remote Staff on new curriculum (webinar 9/10 and in person asap)
- Train families on new curriculum
- Implementation with students (5-10 days from today)

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Questions?