New Jersey Department of Education Announces English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Instructional Units

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) supports schools, educators and districts to ensure all of New Jersey’s 1.4 million students have equitable access to high-quality education and achieve academic excellence. In pursuit of this shared mission, talented New Jersey educators have leveraged the rigorous New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) to build and deliver effective curriculum, instruction and assessment. As a result of this sustained and powerful work, New Jersey consistently ranks as one of the top states nationally for educational outcomes. NJDOE is proud of this recognition and the work it represents. We also know that we must sustain efforts to close the achievement gaps that persist in our state. Today the Department is announcing the release of a tool to support these efforts: instructional units in ELA and mathematics.

Instructional Units
Over the past seven months, NJDOE assembled and led teams of educators (teachers, coaches, supervisors and principals) from across New Jersey to unpack the 2016 NJSLS in ELA and mathematics. These teams unpacked the ELA and mathematics standards into instructional units that contain student learning objectives (SLOs) for each grade-level standard. The four instructional units in each grade address all grade-level standards. The instructional units maintain the rigor of the standards and provide school districts and professional learning communities with a meaningful resource from which to build standards-aligned curriculum, instruction and assessment.

The teams utilized the Connected Action Roadmap (CAR) Framework to guide the work of unpacking the standards. The CAR framework is endorsed by the Partnership for Collaborative Professional Learning¹ and helps drive a process of continuous school improvement by building and leveraging the capacity of educators. CAR helps educators to connect standards-aligned curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional learning to a school culture that promotes ongoing reflection on, and growth in, student learning.

We would like to thank each of the educators who contributed to this project, as well as the districts who allowed them to lend their time and talent. Their expertise made it possible to develop this valuable tool to improve teaching and learning.

Upcoming Opportunities
School Year 2019-2020 is intended to be a planning year in which districts explore the CAR framework and the instructional units. The NJDOE will provide regional trainings on the CAR framework and the instructional units over the course of the year. More information about these trainings will be shared in upcoming Broadcasts. In addition, a three-year CAR pilot will be initiated this year; interested districts should access the CAR pilot application prior to the September 20 application deadline.

For questions, please contact standards@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
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