

Enduring Understandings

Enduring Understandings provide specific insights about big ideas that with which students should leave school. They are the specific inferences, based on the content standards, which have lasting value beyond the classroom. They are central to a discipline, applicable from K-12, addressed with differing levels of sophistication at different grade levels, and are transferable to new situations.

Enduring Understandings for the Delaware Recommended Curriculum

Educators will understand that:

- Aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment in Delaware classrooms will successfully prepare students for assessments measuring the transfer of knowledge in critical thinking and application, including the DSTP.
- Assessments should center on students demonstrating transfer rather than selecting correct answers through recognition or recall. This type of assessment (transfer tasks) will require a rethinking of instruction. New instructional methods will require new tools. Teaching for understanding helps students to achieve the concepts found in the Delaware content standards.
- Integrated learning experiences help students conceptualize both the boundaries and the relationships among the content areas. The individual standards are building blocks which can be combined in any number of ways to create a solid foundation for effective citizenship.
- Understanding how students learn is fundamental to curriculum design. Students may have difficulty learning because the learning environment does not complement their learning needs. These students can often be successful if the environment is altered. It is the responsibility of educators to promote success for each student, regardless of learning styles or needs.

Examples of **Enduring Understandings** representing each content area are below:

English Language Arts Essential Questions

Conventions of language help readers understand what is being communicated.

The impact of a text on a reader is influenced by the reader's experience.

Math Essential Questions

Change is fundamental to understanding functions.

The probability of an event can be used to predict the probability of future events.

Science Essential Questions

The structures of materials determine their properties.

There are observable, predictable patterns of movement in the Sun, Earth, and Moon system that account for day/night.

Social Studies

Students will understand that the principles and ideals underlying American democracy are designed to promote the freedom of the American people.

Distinctions between a citizen's rights, responsibilities, and privileges help to define the requirements and limits of personal freedom.

Physical Education

Physical activity involves using movement and motor skills across your life span.

Physical activity is fun.

Visual and Performing Arts

Dance can be notated and recorded for interpretation and performance.

Material (content) for a dramatic piece can be derived from a variety of sources.

World Languages

Language and culture are inseparable, like body and soul.

Language learning involves taking risks and learning from one's mistakes.