Nevada's Theory of Action for Advancing Strong Instruction

NDE Believes

Every student deserves strong, grade-level instruction every day. As the state education agency, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) has a responsibility to share a clear perspective of strong instruction in core content areas and how teachers, coaches, and leaders in Nevada can make that vision real for our students.

NDE's Vision For Students

Every day, in every Nevada classroom, students are:

Building knowledge of the world. + **Engaging with grade-level content and instruction.** + **Solving complex problems together.** + **Making progress toward their postsecondary goals.**

In **literacy**, our students achieve grade-level proficiency and build confidence as readers, writers, and communicators in ELA and across content areas by:

- Developing foundational literacy skills through systematic and explicit instruction in the early grades and targeted skills with adolescent readers.
- Actively reading grade-level, high-quality, complex text across genres (read aloud in early grades).
- Expanding their knowledge and vocabulary through content-rich texts.
- Building and demonstrating understanding of text through discourse and writing.

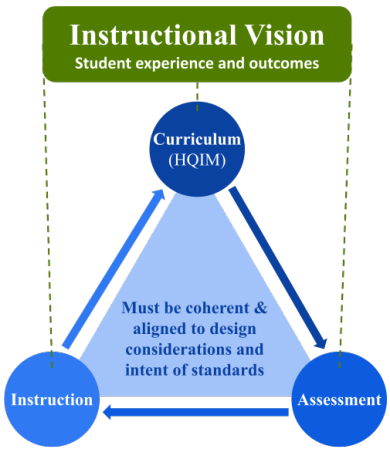
In **math**, our students achieve grade-level proficiency and build a positive identity and disposition toward mathematics by:

- Building grade-level conceptual understanding and numeracy, alongside procedural fluency and automaticity.
- Engaging in hands-on, complex, real-world problem solving.
- Justifying and evaluating their reasoning through mathematical discourse.

Students not yet meeting grade-level expectations receive additional tiered support aligned with core instruction that ensures access to grade-level content.

One Vision, Three Aligned Parts

Achieving this vision requires an aligned system of curriculum, assessment, and instruction, grounded in the Nevada state standards and the instructional shifts they require. Together, these three components define the materials students learn from, how we know they are learning, and what high-quality teaching and learning look and sound like in classrooms every day. NDE is building this alignment at the state level, and is dedicated to supporting districts and schools in building it locally.



Our Focus: Strong Instruction with High-Quality Materials

NDE's strategy centers on the skillful, everyday use of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM): materials that give every student access to grade-level content, engagement with rich texts and tasks, and assessments aligned to what they're learning. In collaboration with Nevada educators, NDE will build and refine the tools, guidance, and support behind these practices. **As a state agency, we believe strong instruction grounded in high-quality instructional materials is our most valuable lever for shifting outcomes for students.**

***If** we build a shared vision of instructional excellence that reflects:*

- The major priorities of the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS)
- How students grow as readers, writers, problem-solvers, and learners across content areas
- What makes instructional materials and college- and career-ready (CCR) assessments aligned

***and** create the conditions and practices that bring that vision to life in classrooms:*

- Consistent instruction with HQIM in every classroom
- Intentional time for teachers and leaders to engage in collaborative planning and coaching
- Preparation of units and lessons from the HQIM that ensures all learners are consistently engaged in grade-level instruction
- Regular observation, feedback, and coaching, grounded in HQIM, to strengthen instructional practice and reinforce high expectations
- Targeted supports to teachers and leaders through curriculum-based professional learning (CBPL) that strengthens knowledge, skills, and actions to improve their practice
- Intervention and extension support aligned to core instruction

***and** use evidence of student learning to continuously improve by:*

- Reviewing student work to see how well students understand grade-level content and are meeting the analytical and conceptual demands of the standards
- Identifying student learning gaps and misconceptions, and planning to accelerate learning
- Determining whether interventions are working, and adjusting our approach when needed
- For students who are ready, providing opportunities to extend learning or demonstrate deeper understanding

***Then** more students will demonstrate proficiency with grade-level content by:*

- Reading, writing, problem solving, and discussing grade-level content to build understanding
- Displaying precision to explain and justify their thinking both orally and in writing
- Doing the majority of the work of the lesson and persevering through challenge

How We'll Know It's Working

NDE will track whether HQIM is reaching classrooms and the strength of instruction it supports, to see if this strategy is closing the gap between the vision and everyday practice.