

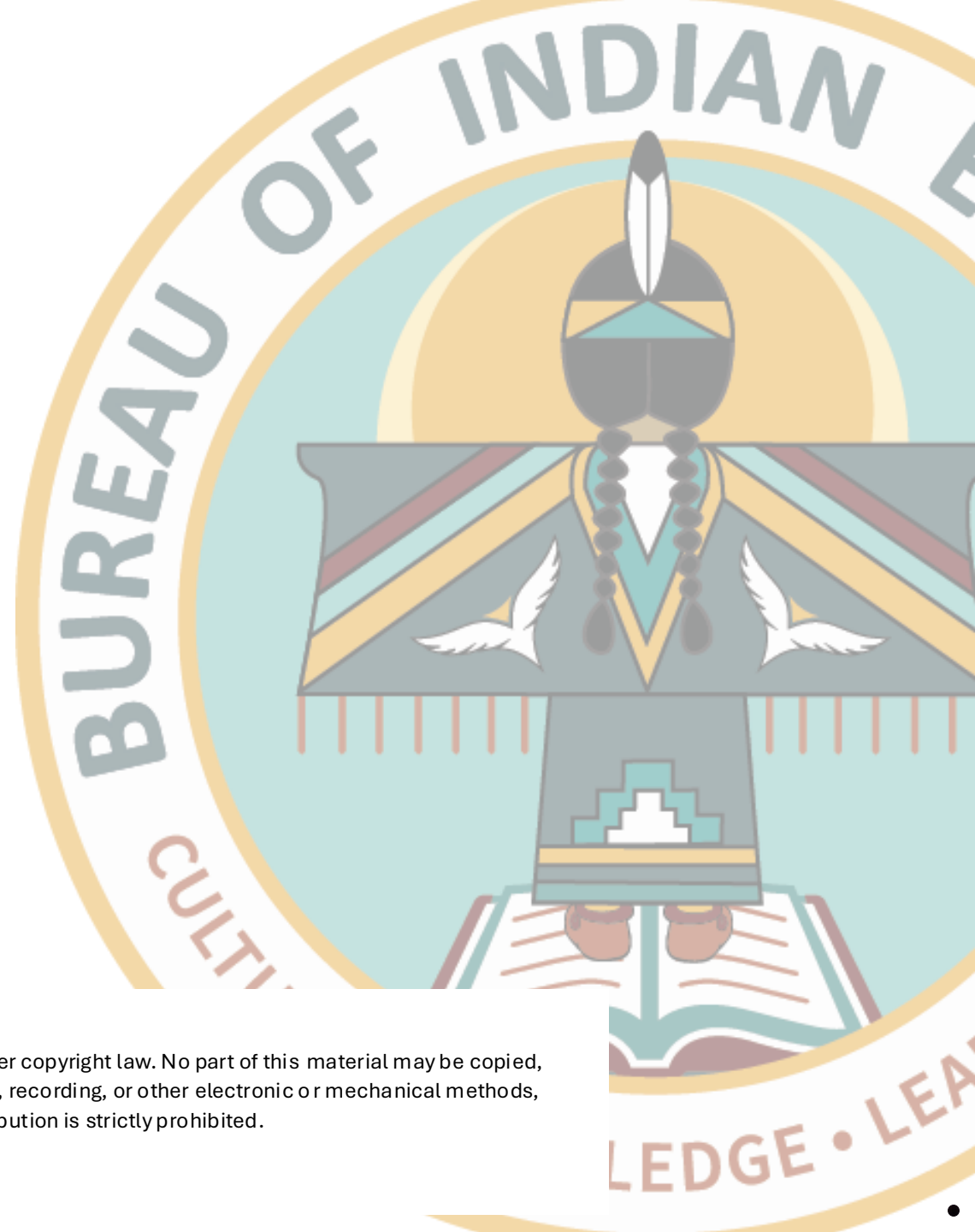
Building Curricular Coherency in BIE Schools

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Definition of Curricular Coherence

Definition:

Curricular coherence refers to the clear, logical, and aligned connection between academic standards, instructional practices, learning materials, and assessments — ensuring that what teachers teach, what students learn, and how learning is measured are all working toward the same goals.

Fortus, et al. (2015) *“Assessing the role of curriculum coherence in student learning about energy”* (Research in Science Teaching)

Schmidt & Houang (2012) *“Curricular Coherence and the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics”*

Schmidt & Prawat (2006) *“Curriculum coherence and national control of education: issue or non-issue?”*



Key Points

- Ensures alignment among curriculum, instruction, and assessment

(Jin et al., *Science Education Review*, 2019).

- Promotes consistent learning expectations and equity across classrooms

(Massachusetts DESE, 2018).

- Strengthens instructional systems by integrating standards, materials, and professional learning

(RAND Corporation, 2020).

- Reduces fragmentation by aligning exams, standards, and teaching

(RISE Program, 2020).

- Encourages intentional, well-structured course design to enhance student learning pathways

(Teagle Foundation, 2018).



Why It Matters

- **Improves Student Proficiency** by ensuring each learning experience builds purposefully on the last.
- **Supports Teacher Clarity** through aligned goals and expectations.
- **Advances Equity** by guaranteeing ***all*** students access to the same essential knowledge and skills.
- **Fosters Systemic Improvement** through coordinated planning across grade levels and subjects.

References:

- Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (2018). *The Case for Curricular Coherence*.
- Jin, H. et al. (2019). *Toward Coherence in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*. *Science Education Review*.
- RAND Corporation (2020). *Instructional System Coherence*.
- RISE Program (2020). *System (In)Coherence: Quantifying the Alignment of Standards, Exams, and Teaching*.
- Teagle Foundation (2018). *In Search of Curricular Coherence*.



Current Challenges in BIE Schools

- Inconsistent curriculum implementation across sites
- Limited alignment between standards, instruction, and assessments
- Variation in teacher expectations and instructional materials
- Gaps in professional learning communities (PLCs) and data-driven collaboration
- Persistent disparities in student achievement outcomes



The Impact of Incoherence

- Students experience uneven learning opportunities
- Difficulties transitioning between grades or schools
- Teachers lack clarity about essential standards and expectations
- Resources and interventions may be misaligned
- Systemic inequities are reinforced rather than reduced



Vision for Coherent Curriculum

- All students have access to **the same essential standards**
- Instruction, assessment, and feedback are aligned
- Teachers collaborate to refine practice based on shared goals
- Data informs instruction and professional learning
- Curriculum honors **cultural relevance** and **community context**



Framework for Building Coherence

- ✓ **Define Essential Standards** – Identify and prioritize the most critical learning goals.
- **Unpack Standards** – Translate into measurable learning targets and success criteria. (Teacher Clarity training)
- **Align Assessments** – Ensure formative and summative assessments measure key outcomes.
- **Design Aligned Instruction** – Develop lessons and tasks matched to standards and assessments.
- **Collaborate in PLCs** – Regularly analyze student work and adjust instruction.
- **Monitor and Reflect** – Use data and feedback for continuous improvement.

The right
work in PLCs

Role of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

- Collaborative teams ensure coherence within and across grade levels
- Use of common planning tools and assessment calendars
- Shared analysis of student data to adjust instruction
- Builds collective efficacy and shared responsibility

Clauschee, D. (2020). *Professional Learning Communities and Native American Education: a Correlational Analysis* (Doctoral dissertation, Northern Arizona University).

Tools for Building Coherence

- ✓ Curriculum maps and pacing guides
- ✓ Standards-unpacking training (Teacher Clarity)
- ✓ Common assessment frameworks (NAVY)
- Lesson & Assessment study protocols (Provide a structured process for teachers to collaboratively plan, observe, and refine lessons)
- Cross-grade alignment documents (vertical alignment)
- Reflective tools for instructional alignment (Provide rubrics, checklists, or guidance for teachers to self-assess alignment between instruction, standards, and assessments)
- Maintain relentless focus on standard-base outcomes (proficiency numbers)

Leadership Actions for Coherence

- Establish clear expectations for alignment and collaboration
- Provide structured time for PLCs and curriculum review
- Use walkthroughs and feedback cycles focused on coherence
- Invest in sustained professional learning
- Monitor coherence through student outcomes and teacher input

Teacher Actions for Coherence

- Collaborate to unpack standards and define success criteria
- Use aligned materials and assessments
- Reflect on data and adjust instruction
- Contribute to shared curriculum artifacts
- Ensure lessons connect to prior and future learning

Measuring Success

- Evidence of common learning targets across classrooms
- Consistent assessment practices and grading policies
- Improved student achievement and growth data
- Stronger transitions between grades
- Greater teacher clarity and collaboration

Equity Through Coherence

- Every BIE student, regardless of location or teacher, has access to the same essential learning
- Instruction reflects both academic rigor and cultural relevance
- Coherence ensures that equity is designed into the system, not left to chance

Call to Action

- Commit to shared definitions and expectations
- Build structures that sustain collaboration and coherence
- Keep students at the center of curriculum decisions
- Together, we can ensure equity, consistency, and excellence in every BIE classroom



Mvto HiyHiy LemLmts Wado
 Wawaenon DaWaEh Miigwech Wopila
 Pinagigi Wimblahaho
 Qu yana Baasee AnaaBatee
 Ahéhee HiriweTudahe
 Pilamiya Taikuu
 Nya:Weh Aho
 ThankYou Tansi