

Appendix A

Definitions

(A1) Definitions for Social Studies Evaluation

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Definitions

Advanced Placement (AP)

The AP program is an intensive program of college level curricula and examinations developed by the College Board that provides high school students with an opportunity to earn college credit at participating colleges and universities across the country. The AP program offers students an opportunity to develop their academic strengths through rigorous curricula and challenging national examinations and exposes them to academic experiences usually reserved for college students.

Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

A classroom observation tool developed at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education. It aims to provide a common lens and language focused on classroom interactions that encourage student learning. The CLASS tool organizes teacher-student interactions into three broad domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.

Co-Teaching

A classroom that includes two or more teachers sharing responsibility for teaching some or all of the students assigned to a classroom. Usually one of the teachers is a general education teacher and one teacher is either a special education teacher or an ESOL/HILT teacher. The responsibility for planning, instruction, and assessment of students in the room is shared by the teachers in the room.

Departmentalized Instruction

When instruction is departmentalized, students receive daily instruction from several different teachers because each teacher specializes in a single subject. For example, students may receive math instruction from one teacher and social studies instruction from another teacher. Departmentalized instruction is the norm at the secondary level and is implemented at some elementary schools in some grade levels.

Differentiation

Differentiation is modified instruction that helps students with diverse academic needs and learning styles master the same challenging academic content. Differentiating means providing interrelated activities that are based on student needs for the purpose of ensuring that all students come to a similar grasp of a skill or idea (Adapted from Good, 2006).

End-of-Course (EOC) SOL Test

EOC SOL tests assess student mastery of the standards associated with the corresponding secondary coursework. Students who earn passing scores receive a verified credit towards their high school graduation requirements.

Enrichment

Enrichment describes activities that provide additional learning opportunities that are different than what the student does in a traditional classroom. The activities are engaging but they also impart

knowledge. They may include activities such as simulations and projects but also include guest speakers and fieldtrips.

ESOL/HILT

The English for Speakers of Other Languages/High Intensity Language Training (ESOL/HILT) program supports and monitors instruction that develops academic language and content knowledge for English language learners.

Extension

Extensions are opportunities provided to extend the learning within the general education classroom. They are often provided to students in classrooms who need additional rigor in curriculum and instruction.

History Alive!

History Alive! is a pedagogical approach to social studies instruction that consists of six teaching strategies that are based on the following premises:

- Students have different learning styles so instruction should incorporate many ways of learning (e.g. visual, kinesthetic).
- Cooperative interaction increases learning and improves social skills. Instruction should incorporate multiple opportunities for students to discuss content.
- All students can learn. Instruction should be implemented to reach all the learners in the classroom.

Integration

Integration is instruction covering multiple content areas that are presented in an interrelated, holistic manner to improve student understanding.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

International Baccalaureate (IB) is an academic program licensed by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) that, upon successful completion, results in the awarding of a high school degree. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of international awareness and responsible citizenship for students.

Performance Assessment Task (PAT)

Performance Assessment Tasks (PATs) are curriculum-embedded products that give evidence of students' deeper understanding of content and application of higher order thinking skills. PATs allow students to demonstrate their understanding of the "big idea" or core concepts of the subject by completing an assessment based on a scenario; analyzing primary and secondary source documents; communicating a course of action through an oral, written, visual or kinesthetic product; and reflecting on the learning value of the task.

Personalized Device Initiative

Appendix A1

In 2011, the APS School Board set the technical direction for the division by establishing a strategic plan objective of providing every student with a personalized device by 2017. First the network infrastructure was upgraded to ensure the devices would be reliable and various options were evaluated. In 2014-15, the first personalized devices were provided to one grade level of students in every school to learn what instructional possibilities are created. Additional grade levels will be added in future years to achieve the 2017 requirement.

Standards of Learning (SOLs)

The SOLs are the Virginia Board of Education's curriculum objectives that describe the commonwealth's expectations for student learning and achievement by subject for grades K–12.