
Learning Cycles: Locally Grown Curriculum Writing and Validation

Ipswich Public Schools, MA

*At the New England Association of Schools and
Colleges, Inc. Showcase of Model Schools*

What were the driving forces towards the creation of Learning Cycles?

Learning Cycles (LCs) are a tool for teachers to examine written curriculum and give deep feedback to each other in aligned ways.

In LCs small teams of teachers work together to share curriculum and give it feedback after seeing their colleagues in action.

Learning Cycles are “*for teachers, by teachers*” with the support of the district and school administrators. They are not related to the evaluation process.

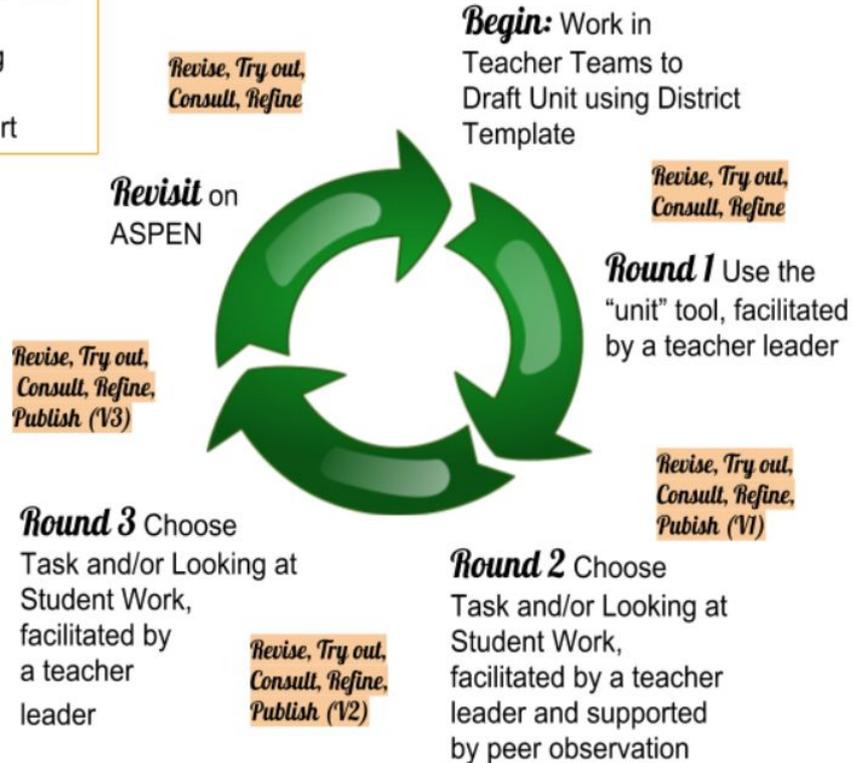
How does your district support educators in:

1. Writing curriculum?
2. Sharing that curriculum with colleagues?
3. What do you wonder about Learning Cycles (curriculum validation)?

The Journey to Learning Cycles

Year One...

Ipswich Public
Schools
Learning
Cycles
Flowchart



The Journey to Learning Cycles

Ipswich Public
Schools
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*Revise, Try out,
Consult, Refine*

Begin: Decide on the year's Learning Cycles focus/options & build vertical teacher teams. Use district Successful Habits of Mind & Understanding by Design curriculum writing template throughout cycle.

*Revise, Try out,
Consult, Refine*

Round 1 Choose from variety of protocol options, with an eye to standards-based alignment, Successful Habits of Mind and powerful learning.

*Revise, Try out,
Consult, Refine,
Publish (V1)*



Round 4 Celebrate the year's Learning Cycles work.

*Revise, Try out,
Consult, Refine,
Publish (V3)*

Round 3

Conduct peer observations in order to see curriculum in action & give each other feedback towards Standards-based Alignment & powerful learning.

*Revise, Try out,
Consult, Refine,
Publish (V2)*

Round 2 Continue to share curriculum, using protocols & with an eye to building towards looking at data (including from peer observations) together.

[Year Four...](#)

Learning Cycle Artifact Gallery Walk:

Please peruse the the Ipswich Public Schools “artifacts” around the room. As you do so, please jot notes on the following for each artifact:

- (1) What does this artifact make you see about Learning Cycles?
- (2) What does this artifact make you think about Learning Cycles?
- (3) What does this artifact make you wonder about Learning Cycles?

Write your “See, Think, Wonder” on the chart papers for each artifact.

So, what are some of the tools and resources we've developed along the way?

District “Understanding by Design” curriculum template

Norms

Protocol choices

Vertical teaming, collaboration & peer observation

What were some challenges?

What were some positive outcomes and impacts on student learning?

What are the NEASC Standards addressed by Learning Cycles?

Curriculum, all standards

Instruction, Indicator 2

Assessment, Indicator 4

Questions? Thank you!

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