ONLINE INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Component:

Provide for online instructional resources to support the curriculum.

Description:

Online instructional resources (or packaged online curriculum resources) provide for more engaged, relevant, and personalized learning. Interacting with these resources allows students to build new knowledge and visualize difficult-to-understand concepts.

Useful Attributes of Instructional Resources

❏ Are aligned with the state curriculum (e.g. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills—TEKS).
❏ Engage the learner.
❏ Are presented in the most appropriate formats: text, pictures, video, and sound.
❏ Are accessible to meet the diverse needs of students.
❏ Differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all learners.
❏ Allow for greater levels of student interest, inquiry, analysis, collaboration, creativity, and content production.
❏ Contain resources for both teachers and students.
❏ Can be used with existing technology (wireless laptop) and infrastructure.
❏ Provide opportunities for students to work collaboratively and individually.

Curriculum Alignment

❏ Ensure that curriculum alignment takes place—it is not just a matter of adding immersion components to the existing curriculum, but replacing existing instructional practices and resources with 21st century learning resources.
    • Begin with the curriculum standards—the TEKS.
    • Align new tools to curriculum standards and ensure that they extend, supplement, or enhance teaching and learning.
    • Align with district curriculum and scope and sequence for all impacted content areas.
❏ Develop strategies for using the online instructional materials to replace what has always been done in the classroom with strategies that use technology to improve teaching and learning; consider what teachers can stop doing so that they can use new online instructional materials.
❏ Ensure that the online or electronic materials include guides suggesting methods for teachers to include higher level thinking skills in lessons.
❏ Develop lessons using materials that build students' conceptual understanding of content and involve higher order thinking (e.g., analyze, synthesize, generalize, explain, and hypothesize).

Considerations for Use

❏ Consider online resources that support learner-centered activities and teach students to take more responsibility in their learning.

❏ Consider enhancement or replacement of existing traditional print materials with online/electronic resources.

❏ Consider the use of state-adopted online instructional materials.

❏ Consider placing electronic resources or lesson activities on the student laptop for use when the Internet is not available.

❏ Consider the use of materials that are linked to one or more online formative assessment tools so that follow up can occur.