

Recommendation 1: Focus on leaders first.

Action Steps for District Leaders

- Invest time upfront for learning the new curriculum and how it aligns to other core instructional elements (standards, instruction, assessment, and evaluation and feedback).
- Identify any gaps between standards, curriculum, and assessments, both interim and summative.
- Communicate the connections and coherence between the new curriculum and other initiatives.
- Plan for curriculum implementation by creating specific, districtwide professional learning structures and identifying effective partners.
- **Virtual Strategy:** [Guiding questions for planning virtual learning](#) provide a tool for teachers as they consider objectives and the primary content for each lesson and make intentional connections across standards, instruction, and curriculum.

Action Steps for School Leaders

- Create opportunities for the school leadership team (including teacher leaders or instructional support staff) to learn the new curriculum.
- Communicate to teachers how the curriculum connects to other core instructional elements (standards, instruction, assessment, and evaluation and feedback).

Action Steps for Teacher Leaders

- Learn the new curriculum and how it connects to other core instructional elements (standards, instruction, assessments, and evaluation and feedback).
- **Virtual Strategy:** Use a [standards recovery planning template](#) to help teachers identify missed standards, make connections to where they are covered in the curriculum, and create an action plan for integrating those in instruction.

Recommendation 2: Create time, structures, and formal roles for ongoing, collaborative professional learning at the school level.

Action Steps for District Leaders

- Create, fund, and train formal, instructionally focused teacher leadership roles at the school level with the time and authority to provide support for curriculum implementation.
- Develop protocols to support and standardize the work of professional learning teams.

Action Steps for School Leaders

- Create time and structures for weekly, collaborative professional learning team meetings and school leadership team meetings.

- Analyze data, set goals, monitor progress, and adjust plans for curriculum support.
- Support teacher leaders to effectively lead collaborative professional learning.

Action Steps for Teacher Leaders

- Lead collaborative professional learning teams that focus on building teachers' instructional capacity to deliver their curriculum in the classroom.
- Serve on the school leadership team.
- **Virtual Strategy:** Support peers in their online instruction and ensure students are engaged with the content. [Professional learning and coaching for teachers can move online](#), too.

Recommendation 3: Adopt a research-based instructional rubric to guide conversations around teaching and learning with the curriculum.

Action Steps for District Leaders

- Adopt a research-based instructional rubric that creates a common language to describe instructional practice at levels that increase in effectiveness.
- Communicate how instructional practices support curriculum implementation.
- **Virtual Strategy:** Use a [rubric companion tool](#) to show what use of high-quality instruction and materials can look like in a virtual setting.

Action Steps for School Leaders

- Strengthen teachers' implementation of curriculum lessons and units by using an instructional rubric to build their instructional skills.

- Build teacher leader skills in using the instructional rubric to support professional learning.

Action Steps for Teacher Leaders

- Observe and analyze classroom practice and student work to identify areas for improvement in the delivery of the curriculum.
- **Virtual Strategy:** Help teachers plan for how students will demonstrate that they know the content in a virtual environment. This can include [being clear and intentional about success criteria](#), [modeling](#), and providing strong examples.

Recommendation 4: Anchor coaching and feedback in the curriculum.

Action Steps for District Leaders

- Train district leaders to create coherence and consistency in coaching school leaders and teacher leaders.
- Observe, analyze, and support necessary adjustments as curriculum is implemented.

Action Steps for School Leaders

- Observe classrooms to identify challenges with curriculum implementation.
- Use curriculum resources and supports when coaching and providing feedback.
- Build teacher leader skills in providing high-quality coaching and feedback grounded in the curriculum.
- **Virtual Strategy:** Provide a [strong lesson planning template for virtual learning](#) to support teachers as they identify resources students will need.

Action Steps for Teacher Leaders

- Observe classroom lessons to understand how teachers are implementing the curriculum.
- Provide feedback and specific recommendations for improvement that are grounded in the curriculum and student work.
- **Virtual Strategy:** Using a [rubric companion tool for virtual learning](#), look for intentional use of activities, materials, and tools on platforms such as Zoom or Google Classroom to analyze how a teacher uses the curriculum during the lesson.

Recommendation 5: Recognize the stages of curriculum implementation and what teachers need to progress to higher stages.

Action Steps for District Leaders

- Visit classrooms and work with principals and their leadership team members to identify specific challenges teachers are facing in implementing the curriculum with students.
- Ensure that professional learning and coaching for school leadership team members address the specific challenges classroom teachers are facing with curriculum implementation in their school.

Action Steps for School Leaders

- Build expertise in the skills and knowledge needed by each teacher to implement their curriculum well.
- Support professional learning teams to focus on the skills and knowledge that teachers in that team need to grow and develop.

- Provide individual coaching that helps teachers to improve their skills and knowledge using the curriculum.

Action Steps for Teacher Leaders

- Lead weekly professional learning that supports teams of teachers to improve their skills and knowledge in implementing specific units and lessons in the curriculum.
- Help classroom teachers to analyze their instructional practice, reflect on areas for improvement, and make steady improvements in their ability to teach using high-quality instructional materials.
- **Virtual Strategy:** Focus job-embedded professional learning on building the skills necessary to deliver lessons virtually, including modeling how to use high-quality content and observing and providing feedback to teachers on their virtual lessons.

Recommendation 6: Ensure that districts work closely with school leaders to plan for, communicate, and implement school-based professional learning that blends support for curriculum and instructional practice.

Action Steps for District Leaders

- Create professional learning structures and opportunities for leaders at all levels to collaborate on curriculum implementation throughout the year.
- Coordinate district training and support with the school-based work of teacher leaders and school leaders.
- Coordinate the work of different service providers working in schools.
- **Virtual Strategy:** Work closely with school leaders to [plan ongoing and job-embedded professional learning](#).

Action Steps for School Leaders

- Coordinate with district leaders to plan for, communicate, and implement school-based professional learning that blends support for curriculum and instructional practice.

Action Steps for Teacher Leaders

- Engage in opportunities to work with district and school leaders on curriculum implementation.