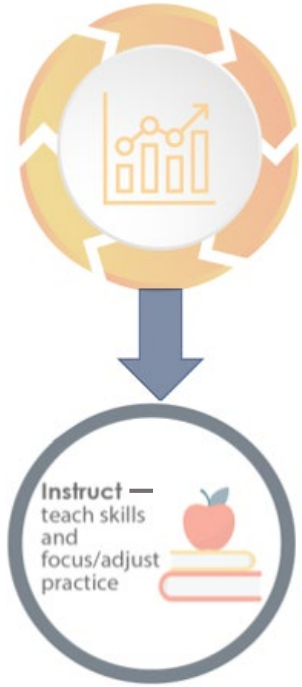# Guiding Question #3

How do you ensure alignment of performance expectations (standards), curricular emphasis, and instruction across all classrooms and grade levels?
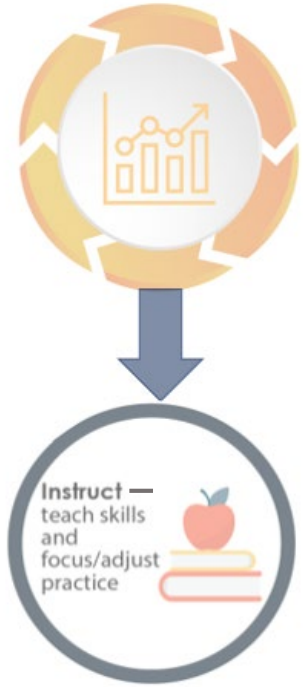
WHY? HOW? WHAT?

WHY is this important?

Alignment between curriculum, instruction, and assessment is valuable because it provides a strong foundation for learning and promotes consistency for all stakeholders.

- Ensure that all students have access to an equitable educational experience.

- Provide consistency in expectations and instruction.

- Allow for cohesion between grade levels/courses.

- Emphasize that what is written, what is taught, and what is assessed is consistent.
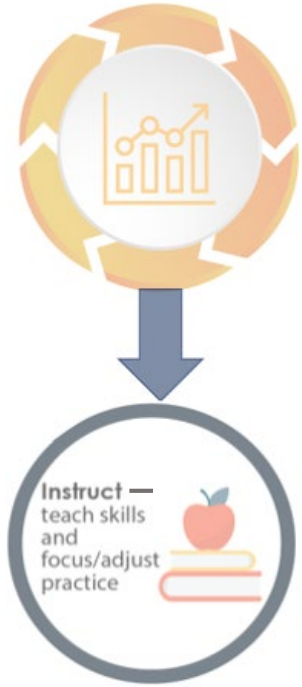
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HOW will we achieve success?

- LEAs perform curriculum audits and verifications.

- Create common assessments.

- Examine alignment among course/grade level teachers.

- Analyze grading procedures and report cards.

- Verify that assessments are aligned to instruction and adjust as necessary.

- Ensure common planning time for teachers to plan consistent instruction and assessment.

- Administrators conduct fidelity reviews.

Instruct — teach skills and focus/adjust practice

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WHAT research and resources support this initiative?

- Written Curriculum Audit Tool
- ASCD Curriculum Audit Checklist
- Success at the Core: Aligning Curriculum
- SAS Assessment Literacy course
- ASCD Article: Seven Reasons for Standards-Based Grading
- Standards-Based Grading Road Map
- Educator Effectiveness Handbook
- Creating Effective Professional Learning Communities
- What is a Professional Learning Community

Accelerated Learning

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GQ #3 Reflection

Do we have alignment of performance expectations (standards), curricular emphasis, and instruction across all classrooms and grade levels?

Not Yet Evident	Emerging	Operational	Exemplary
There is little evidence of alignment in content areas.	There is minimal evidence of alignment in content areas.	There is adequate evidence of alignment in content areas.	There is strong evidence of alignment in all content areas.

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Solutions

PENNSYLVANIA'S INTERMEDIATE UNITS

SAS Standards Aligned System

Professional Development Opportunities:

*Curriculum auditing processes and tools

*Standards-based grading practices

*Effective learning community practices

*Creating common assessment aligned to instruction

*Educator effectiveness

*Assessment literacy

*Best practices in observation

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