

Criteria for selection of instructional Units

Instructional Unit

Courses of instruction are usually divided into learning units as reflected in textbooks, manuals, modules, and other instructional materials that are based on a given curriculum.

A teaching unit contains a series of sequenced and related learning activities that are organized around a theme, issue, or problem along with goals, objectives, resources for learning, and procedures for evaluation (Marterolla, 1984)

It is a chunk of content and associated skills that are perceived as fitting together in a logical way (Arends, 2004)

The term “instructional materials” shall include printed materials and multi-media materials, and shall include materials used in the classroom and available in the libraries.

Nature of Instructional Unit

An instructional unit is a major subdivision of a course and is composed of learning activities that are planned around a central theme, topic, issue, or problem. When the content of instruction is organized into instructional units, the teaching process becomes more manageable.

Types of Instructional Unit

- Conventional Unit
- Integrated Unit
 - ❖ Thematic Unit
 - ❖ Integrated (Interdisciplinary) Thematic unit
- Self-instructional Unit
- Contract Unit

Conventional Unit: also known as standard unit, mostly within same department. It's a traditional unit you would find within a department. Basically a group of sequenced lessons together on the focus of mastery on knowledge and/or skills to which unit is centered.

Integrated Unit: It stems from and goes beyond what a conventional unit is. In loose terms (note there could be overlap), there are two basic subcategories that fall into here:

Thematic Unit: When conventional unit is centered on theme. An example of this is "Shakespeare" for an ELA class. This may incorporate several plays, sonnets/poems, biography, and/or writing essays centered around William Shakespeare

Integrated (Interdisciplinary) Thematic unit: When thematic unit covers different disciplines. An example of this is "Rocket launch" that combines physics (science) and trigonometry (math) in the creation of rockets, and prediction and actual execution of rocket launches.

Self-instructional Unit: also known as modular unit. Examples of found in online instruction, or online GED kit, Scholastic Reading self-pace kit (elementary), or SRI kit (elementary/middle school). Self-pace for remediation, enrichment, make-up, work well with learning centers.

Contract Unit: student agrees to carry out certain activities within an individualized unit, usually to earn certain letter grade. Has variable-letter grade agreement.

Criteria for selecting instructional unit

- a. Instructional materials should support the educational philosophy, goals and objectives of the District and the objectives of the curricular offering in which the materials will be used.
- b. Instructional materials should be appropriate for the age, emotional and social development, and ability level of the students for whom the materials are selected.

- c. Instructional materials should be diverse with respect to levels of difficulty, reader appeal, and should present a variety of points of view.
- d. Instructional materials should meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation.
- e. Instructional materials should have aesthetic, cultural, literary, or social value. The value and impact of any literary work will be judged as a whole, taking into account the author's intent rather than individual words, phrases or incidents.
- f. Instructional materials should foster respect for men, women, the disabled, and minority groups and should portray a variety of roles and life styles open to people in today's world. Instructional materials should foster respect for cultural diversity.
- g. Instructional materials should be designed to motivate students to examine their own attitudes and behaviours and to comprehend their own duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges as participating citizens in a pluralistic society.
- h. Instructional materials should encourage students to utilize higher order thinking skills and to become informed decision-makers, to exercise freedom of thought and to make independent judgments through examination and evaluation of relevant information, evidence and differing viewpoints.
- i. Instructional materials should be selected taking into account instructional materials already available in the District in order to meet the above criteria and in order to replace materials worn, obsolete or no longer appropriate. Licensed professional staff shall provide for constant and continuing renewal of the collection not only by the addition of up-to-date material, but by the judicious elimination of materials which no longer meet needs or find use.
- j. Other criteria as developed by the licensed staff under the supervision of the administrative staff.