Chicago Public Schools: Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies

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The Next Generation: Chicago’s Children – Our Framework for Success

OUR VISION

Every Chicago Public Schools student in every neighborhood will be engaged in a rigorous, well-rounded instructional program and will graduate prepared for success in college, career and life.

The Work We Do

The Future We See

PILLAR 1
High Standards, Rigorous Curriculum and Powerful Instruction

PILLAR 2
Systems of Support that Meet Student Needs

PILLAR 3
Engaged and Empowered Families and Community

PILLAR 4
Committed and Effective Teachers, Leaders and Staff

PILLAR 5
Sound Fiscal, Operational and Accountability Systems

Our Ultimate Outcomes are Increases In:
- Graduation rate
- Academic preparedness for college and career
- Entry into college, military or employment
- Persistence and success in college and employment

Our Guiding Principles

CORE BELIEFS
- All of our children are capable of success.
- Every child must have equitable access to a high-quality education.
- Our children’s academic achievement and well-being come first.

CORE VALUES
- We hold high expectations for every student.
- We expect excellence in the adults who serve our students and hold them accountable.
- We base every decision on what is best for our students.
The CPS Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies curriculum is designed to integrate African and African American Studies across all core disciplines over the course of the academic year.

- a customized curriculum aligned to:
  - individual CPS discipline content frameworks and guides
  - Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
HB 2859... “every public elementary school and high school in Illinois include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Black History...”
The CPS *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies* guides are....

- designed to serve as a MODEL to be used by teachers to develop similar units of study that address African and African American contributions as well as the other cultures that are a part of our district, city, state, nation, and the world.
The CPS *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies* guides are driven by....

- Three Universal Themes - Culture, Dignity, and Identity,
- and
- Three Essential Questions
  - How do culture and identity influence who we are?
  - How do time, culture and history influence the works of arts and/or the advancement of science and technology?
  - What can I do to impact my community?
The CPS Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies curriculum consists of three core components:

- An Interdisciplinary Matrix for Literacy, Social Science, Math, Science, Arts and Health, Wellness and Physical Education for grades (K-10)
- Year-long Content Scopes for each discipline (K-10)
- Unit Plans and Launch Lessons for each discipline (K-10)

All of these materials align to the Common Core State Standards and to the CPS discipline frameworks and guides provided by each discipline.
Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Matrix

Matrix

Provides a high-level description of the suggested topics/themes that each grade and discipline can cover across the year

- Is designed to ensure that the course content is presented in a progressively more rigorous fashion across grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10) – from exploring to analyzing and researching.
- Is aligned to the Common Core State Standards.
Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Scopes

Scopes

Expand upon the matrix and year-long topic to provide:
• specific content suggestions
• standards alignment
• suggested resources

Includes:
• Theme
• Concept
• Content Topic
• Essential Questions
• Unit Titles
• Suggested Content
• Suggested Resources
Sample Units of Study and Launch Lessons

Each discipline will have detailed sample unit plans and launch lessons that directly support the matrix and respective discipline and grade-level scopes.

The launch lessons provided demonstrate how the suggested unit plans can be introduced to the students.

Includes:
- Alignment to respective scope
- Discipline and/or Common Core Standards alignment
- Suggested Resources
- Suggested Activities
Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Outcomes

- Present course content that goes beyond the traditional topics of slavery and Civil Rights
- Examine the contributions of numerous, unsung local individuals of African and African American heritage.
- Instruct over the course of entire academic year and in all disciplines, not just in Social Science.
- Serve as a model for schools and teachers to develop similar courses of study to address the history and contributions of peoples of other cultures.
Next Steps

- Introduce the *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies* curriculum guides to school-level educators.
- Support schools in ensuring that students are provided with learning opportunities that allow them to appreciate the depth of contributions that people of African and African American descent have made on our local, national, and global societies.
- Continue to solicit feedback and suggestions from teachers, principals, students and parents.