

RATING GUIDE

Curriculum

A rating of **DEFICIENT** is appropriate if any of the following exist:

- The absence of purposefully designed curriculum (course offerings, co-curricular programs, and other learning opportunities)
- Insufficient opportunities for all students to practice and achieve each of the 21st century learning expectations
- Lack of a level of adherence by the school to Indicator 5 in Standard 7, Community Resources for Learning, to sufficiently support the delivery of the curriculum

A rating of **LIMITED** is appropriate if the school has written curriculum that is purposefully designed and provides sufficient opportunities for all students to practice and achieve each of the 21st century learning expectations, but fails to adhere, at least minimally, to any of the following:

- The curriculum is written in a common format which includes units of study with essential questions, concepts, content, and skills; the school's 21st century learning expectations; instructional strategies; and assessment practices that include the use of school-wide analytic rubrics and course-specific rubrics
- The curriculum emphasizes depth of understanding and application of knowledge through inquiry and problem-solving, higher order thinking, cross-disciplinary learning, authentic learning opportunities both in and out of school, and informed and ethical use of technology
- The taught curriculum aligns with the written curriculum
- There is coordination between and among academic areas and articulation with sending schools
- Staffing levels to support curriculum review and development, instructional materials, technology, equipment, supplies, facilities, and the resources of the library/media center are sufficient
- The professional staff has sufficient personnel, time, and financial resources for ongoing and collaborative development, evaluation, and revision of the curriculum

A rating of **ACCEPTABLE** is appropriate if all of the following are present:

- the curriculum, on the whole, is written in a common format including essential questions, concepts, content and skills, the school's 21st century learning expectations, instructional strategies, and assessment practices including the use of school-wide analytic rubrics and course-specific rubrics
- the curriculum emphasizes, on the whole, depth of understanding and application of knowledge
- the curriculum, as taught, aligns, on the whole, with the written curriculum
- coordination between and among academic areas and articulation with sending schools, on the whole, occurs
- staffing levels, instructional materials, technology, equipment, supplies, facilities, and resources of the library/media center, on the whole, are sufficient
- personnel, time, and financial resources for ongoing and collaborative development, evaluation, and revision of the curriculum, on the whole, are sufficient

A rating of **EXEMPLARY** is appropriate if all of the descriptors in the **ACCEPTABLE** rating are met on a consistent level and the school's curriculum evidences significant:

- use of essential questions, concepts, content, skills, and the 21st century learning expectations
- depth of understanding and application of knowledge through inquiry, problem-solving, higher order thinking, cross-disciplinary learning, authentic learning opportunities both in and out of school, and informed and ethical use of technology
- collaboration between and among academic areas and articulation with sending schools
- provision of personnel, time, and financial resources for ongoing and collaborative development, evaluation, and revision of the curriculum which uses assessment results and current research