

## Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum

A leading educational researcher, Robert Marzano, coined the phrase to make sure that everything being taught to students is aligned with state standards, that every student is receiving it, and that it can viably be taught in a school year.

“When researcher and author Robert J. Marzano (2003) introduced the term guaranteed and viable curriculum into the lexicon of educational best practice, he identified one of the most powerful ways to improve schools.

The guaranteed aspect of a guaranteed and viable curriculum (GVC) requires all students enrolled in the same class, course, or grade level be exposed to the same rigorous curriculum regardless of the teacher to whom they are assigned. If what teachers teach is different from one classroom to the next, the curriculum is not guaranteed.

The viable aspect of a GVC recognizes that teaching the curriculum and covering the curriculum are two very different things. While teachers can cover a lot of content, to teach the curriculum requires students learn what teachers teach. If the amount of content for which teachers are responsible exceeds what they can reasonably teach within the time allotted, the curriculum is not viable.

To establish a curriculum that is both guaranteed and viable, teams of classroom teachers must engage in a process to build a common understanding of what students should know and be able to do.” [GVC Source Info](#)

Many districts do this using other names such as “Curriculum Mapping”, “Curriculum Overviews”, or “Planning Guides”. Blue Valley, Olathe, Shawnee, etc. all have them on their websites, and I want the same here in Lansing. Here are some examples:

[Blue Valley](#)  
[Olathe](#)  
[Shawnee Mission](#)

The GVC has little to do with resources; it’s focused on the state standards and the assessments we use to make sure we are checking for understanding. I love saying to my teachers that resources change, and companies can go bankrupt...but the state standards remain the same.

The goal is to have K-12 GVCs for the four core contents (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies) completed by the end of the year. Here are some examples of what we already have completed and put on our website:

[Lansing GVC](#) – Shout out to Sharon for making this so easy to navigate, understand, and access.

I’m not saying this to brag, but other districts and our OVT chair are asking for the documents I use with staff to lead them in this work. I have been invited to speak at districts about this work and help get them going. Once again, I don’t say that to show off, I say it to show that the work we are doing is valuable and necessary to ensure all our students are learning the required state standards and that all teachers are assessing their learning together. It also is the first step that needs completed before we

jump into better instructional strategies and data analysis...without a GVC all of that is a waste of time; it's the foundation of learning and how we increase out Fastbridge, State Assessment, and ACT scores.

I hope this helps. I can talk about this stuff ALL DAY, so if you want to talk more or have questions, call me on the number below!

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