FOOTHILLS CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT & INSTRUCTION

Foothills Education Updates on Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

Dr. Ken Sherman, editor—June 2023



Summer Institute Data and Curriculum Work

Submitted by Tim Jarboe, Foothills Data Team Leader, and Mark Tavernier, Foothills Curriculum Team Leader

The central focus of this month's two-day Data and Curriculum Summer Institute was an overview and update of the work done by the Data and Curriculum Teams this year, led respectively by Tim Jarboe and Mark Tavernier.

DATA TEAM

Data Team Leader Tim Jarboe opened the Institute with a presentation to the entire group, detailing the Cumulative Assessment-End of Course Test Correlational analysis based on data gathered during the year. The purpose of this work was 1) to see the alignment between the Cumulative Assessments (CA's) and the standards in the End of Course Tests (EOC's), and 2) to see how predictive the CA's are for student performance on the EOC's.

Course	N-Size	R-Squared	Degree of Relationship
Algebra	104	.248	<u>Moderate</u>
Am Lit	219	.441	Substantial
Biology	89	.482	Substantial
US History	168	.073	Low

Key findings from this work:

- The reliability calculations (Kuder-Richardson Formula 20 and Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient) for the CA's are very strong (good or excellent).
- The CA's have been consistently administered in the SY 22-23 according to the Foothills protocols.
- The CA's and EOC performance of students have a moderate to substantial positive correlation in three of four subject areas and a fourth subject area is approaching a moderate relationship. (see chart to the right)
- The current practice of adding 10 points to the CA score (% correct) will be continued for another year.
- This will allow the n-size of the correlation calculations to become larger and more accurate.
- This will also reduce the number of new procedures that Foothills teachers will experience in the fall, given the new operating structures/procedures (due to HB 157) required in our organization.

Message from the Superintendent

I am very proud that, even in the face of legislative challenges, Foothills has "kept its feet," as described in the May 18th issue of the *Madison County Journal*. This was certainly evident during last week's Summer Institute. I am grateful for the Data and Curriculum Team members and all the work they have done over the past several years, and *that they continue to do*. As you may recall, our original task was to review the curriculum to make sure it aligned to the Georgia Standards. The second task was to make sure we had assessments in place to measure achievement on those standards. Thanks to the dedicated, ongoing work of both teams, we have managed to assemble a strong, aligned curriculum and valid assessments to provide predictability and important feedback. In this month's issue of the CAI Newsletter, you will see great evidence of this work. Thanks to all, and enjoy.—**Sherrie**

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DATA TEAM, continued...

During the remainder of the two-day June institute, the Data Team members revised the current cumulative assessments to prepare for their use in August of 2023. This review process consisted of analyzing each assessment's item statistics. For each item, its p-value and point-biserial were reviewed and decisions were made about revising or replacing the items. After revisions were completed, the revised cumulative assessments were reviewed by multiple groups to ensure the highest quality of items. This review process ensures that the Foothills cumulative assessments remain valid and reliable instruments to measure our students' preparation for the EOC.

CURRICULUM TEAM



Curriculum Team Leader Mark Tavernier worked with his various content area leaders and asked them to summarize the key areas of progress they had made. He reported that "all teams made ongoing content and assessment corrections by responding to feedback received from teachers and others. These activities ranged from correcting typos, to modifying test bank questions and/or answers, and to clarifying content within modules.

By content area, this is what they reported:

Math: Fully developed four new math courses (modules, videos, quizzes, and tests for August roll-out: Algebra I—Concepts and Connections; Geometry—Concepts and Connections; Advanced Algebra—Concepts and Connections and Statistical Reasoning.

Social Studies: Developed and launched the new Economics and Personal Finance course in October, incorporating the newly adopted Georgia Personal Finance standards.

US History: Modules were reviewed page by page for content, quiz, and posttest corrections. Content was streamlined and in many cases simplified in order to better align with the GSE. Quiz and posttest questions were improved to better align with standards and match the Depth of Knowledge (DOK) rigor of the EOC. Previewing and summarizing content was added to the beginning and end of all modules. On the first page of each module, learning intentions, success criteria, and a preview video were created. On the last page of the modules, content was summarized and a review video was created. The team reviewed, revised, and moved the US History EOC review packets to Canvas. Utilizing the DOE Social Studies Teacher Notes essential content for each standard and element were created. Since the content is extremely narrow and laser focused to the standards, each standard and element has a brief statement of content with approximately five questions that follow the reading. Additionally, the team has attempted to match the percentage of questions to that on the EOC.

American Government: Reviewed and edited all quiz and test questions. Began highlighting the relevant vocabulary and developing new quiz and test questions in order to strengthen the assessments.



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The Foothills Vision

Foothills Education Charter High School strives to be an accessible, high-quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the People of Georgia and its communities.

English/Language Arts:

Timed Writing Assignment—Developed checklists, reminders, instructions, videos, and prompts.

Revised and moved the American Lit EOC Packets with Quizzes to Canvas, structured by EOC Domain.

Added Vocabulary Based on Context Questions to Unit Tests in American & British Literature

Uploaded course texts in quizzes and unit tests in all courses.

Uploaded images and videos (trailers and music videos) in all courses to generate interest.

Updated articles and requirements for writing assignments.

Updated Writing Rubrics to align with EOC rubrics.

Recorded instructional videos.

Science:

Physical Science:

Created learning targets and learning target videos for all modules.

Strengthened vocabulary study in all modules.

Earth Systems

Created learning targets and learning target videos for all modules.

Environmental Science:

Edited all quizzes and tests to improve alignment.

Physics:

Created 43 practice problem sets with solutions.

Completed 43 practice problem review videos.

Added standards to EOC review course.

Added learning targets for all modules .

Biology:

Completed 8 unit content review videos.

Completed 55 learning targets preview and review videos.

Created cumulative vocabulary reviews for all units.

Reviewed and provided feedback on EOC review course.

Participated in Cumulative Assessment Review Study Group.

Anatomy:

Added learning targets for all modules.

Foreign Language

Spanish I:

Embedded H5P interactive activities to all Modules of the course. Some of the activities were reused from GAVS Canvas and others were created specifically for the needs of our students and to strengthen the course.

Spanish II:

Improved the quiz and posttest banks, making sure the questions are aligned with the standards, reducing vocabulary lists, adding explanations to grammar points, embedding accordion practices, highlighting important information, and re-arranging the content to make it more student friendly. To avoid leaving the Canvas site and using Google, added special characters and accented letters to the instruction boxes of all Posttests and quizzes with fill in the blanks questions for students to copy and paste.





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