

What is a guaranteed and viable curriculum?

A guaranteed and viable curriculum (GVC) is one that guarantees equal opportunity for learning for all students. Similarly, it guarantees adequate time for teachers to teach content and for students to learn it. A guaranteed and viable curriculum is one that guarantees that the curriculum being taught is the curriculum being assessed. It is viable when adequate time is ensured to teach all determined essential content.

What is meant by essential content?

Essential content is the knowledge and skills that students need to know, understand, and be able to do in order to succeed in school. Essential content is determined by unpacking provincial standards and creating measurable

This unpacked standard is explicit and measurable. With a guaranteed and viable curriculum, essential content must be identified for all students by grade level and/or course. Supplemental instruction then takes place for those students with extra needs. Supplemental content is interesting but not essential to understanding. It may or may not be related to grade-level content standards, and it can help students understand essential content.

Adequate time to learn

Teachers commonly voice the concern that there is simply not enough time to teach all curriculum requirements. Under a guaranteed and viable curriculum, planning for time to learn takes place from the moment that curriculum planning begins. Ensuring ample time to learn essential content is a crucial component of a guaranteed and viable curriculum. When implementing a guaranteed and viable curriculum, attention remains focused throughout the year on the learning of the essential content--regardless of distractions that may arise (such as special events, sporting events, etc....).

Time audits are critical components of guaranteed and viable curriculum planning. Time audits identify where time is currently being spent in a school as well as time required for learning essential content.