

Foreword

Curriculum mapping has been sweeping the country. Many districts are focusing on mapping as a method for keeping the curriculum dynamic in an age in which much is changing—standards change, students change, state assessments change, and, most significantly, we teachers are continuously growing, learning, and changing.

This book provides a window into how Kathy Glass has developed a system for mapping that enhances the traditional model. She suggests that we can map with a year overview in mind—one in which mapping can be done across subjects and as a developmental continuum. Her careful explanations leave the reader with not only a step-by-step guide but also excellent examples of the types of maps that she is suggesting.

There are many mapping paths that we can take—as long as they all take us in the same direction—to provide a curriculum that is focused on improving student learning. This book, in combination with the other books that she has referenced, provides a strong foundation for curriculum and instruction.

In addition to her focus on curriculum mapping, she has included some valuable tips on how to build a professional learning community. Mapping is at the heart of professional learning communities. When teachers map, they are documenting the journey their students will be taking or have already taken from the beginning of school to the end. Although it is helpful for teachers to document such journeys because it provides a basis for thoughtful planning and reflection, part of the power of these documents is that collectively they tell a story of the curriculum students have been addressing in a school year. And, as mapping continues, the story unfolds across grades, buildings, departments, and finally, creates a systemwide picture.

This sort of picture was extremely difficult to portray before we had easy access to technology. Now, rather than having dozens of file folders and papers stored in file cabinets and piled on desks, it is possible to have a Web-based software application that not only provides a library of maps but also summarizes and organizes the data that has been entered into reports that serve as a catalyst for professional conversations.

Kathy shares her enthusiasm for the discoveries that she has made both by mapping and by coaching others in the mapping process.

—*Bena Kallick*
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