

Developing an Extension Menu for a Unit of Study

Directions for teachers: Begin planning for your next unit of study by developing four extension tasks that proficient students can complete once they have demonstrated mastery of your grade-level essential learnings.

Type of Extension	Team-Developed Task
<p>Demonstrating mastery at levels beyond grade-level proficiency: Grade-level curricula are often spiraled—introducing students in different grade levels to similar concepts at increasing levels of complexity. To extend learning, collaborative teams can create tasks that ask proficient students to wrestle with these spiraled concepts and to demonstrate mastery at levels that go beyond grade-level expectations.</p>	
<p>Studying nonessential curricula: When answering the first critical question of learning in a PLC—What do we want our students to know and be able to do?—teams generate lists of need to knows and nice to knows. The outcomes on need-to-know lists become the grade-level essentials that all students are expected to master. The nonessential outcomes on nice-to-know lists can be introduced to proficient students as a part of extension efforts.</p>	
<p>Demonstrating mastery at levels beyond grade-level proficiency: Grade-level curricula are often spiraled—introducing students in different grade levels to similar concepts at increasing levels of complexity. To extend learning, teams can create tasks that ask proficient students to wrestle with these spiraled concepts and to demonstrate mastery at levels that go beyond grade-level expectations.</p>	
<p>Studying real-life examples of essential outcomes in action: For students, engagement in school often depends on understanding why the learning outcomes that they are being introduced to matter. Learning teams can turn this need for relevance into extension tasks by asking students to spot places where grade-level concepts and skills are playing a role in life beyond schools or to use the knowledge that they have already mastered to solve real-life problems.</p>	