

What is a Guaranteed Curriculum?

A Guaranteed Curriculum is a curriculum that guarantees equal opportunity for learning for all students as well as a consistent Essential Content that is agreed upon and taught by all teachers. It also guarantees adequate time for teachers to teach content and for students to learn it. And finally, a Guaranteed Curriculum assures that what is being taught is what is being assessed.

How is Guaranteed Curriculum different from a typical scope and sequence?

While a typical scope and sequence delineates when and for how long content is taught before it is assessed, a Guaranteed Curriculum is more organic. Essential Content is exposed to the students early and often in the curriculum and is only assessed when adequate time, which varies depending on content, and an expectation of success has been determined. The focus is on a high success level for all students, not just the high-performing ones.

What is Essential Content?

Essential Content is the knowledge and skills that students need to know, understand, and be able to do to be successful in Spanish.

Teachers are free to add supplemental instruction for students that have extra needs or to indulge a particular interest. Supplemental instruction is not essential to understanding of the content, but often helps increase understanding or ignites an interest in students.

What is meant by Adequate Time?

As teachers, we are always complaining that we don't have enough time to teach the content. With a Guaranteed Curriculum, adequate time is assured for learning the Essential Content. Throughout the year, attention and focus is maintained on the Essential Content to assure that all students have adequate time to learn and acquire the content.

What, no themes?

Learning a language through themes is not a natural process. When we learn our first language, we do not spend time learning all of the animals, or all of the vegetables in the grocery store. We learn vocabulary by which words are most important to us and our lives. We learn the most frequent of the vocabulary first and then develop a more extensive vocabulary through reading. Immediate Immersion Spanish 1 attempts to duplicate this by focusing on the most frequent Spanish vocabulary and engaging the students by talking about what's important to them. In this way the vocabulary won't be learned for the short term, but will be acquired for the long term and be accessible when the students need it.

For those of you who must teach thematically, Immediate Immersion does offer an theme add-on package that includes a way to immerse students in the language while teaching many common themes through intensive PQA (personalized questions and answers). The following themes are included: sports & activities; pets, animals & body parts; school; family; food; clothing; house & home; health & sickness; about town; and travel.

Immediate Immersion Spanish 1 Guaranteed Curriculum

Vocabulary

Immediate Immersion's goal is to focus on the most frequent of real, everyday, Spanish vocabulary. By the end of four years, students will be equipped with an active vocabulary that will allow them to engage in everyday conversations and express themselves at a conversational level.

To that end, Immediate Immersion Spanish 1 will focus on the top 200 words of *A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish: Core Vocabulary for Learners* by Mark Davies. Along with the top 200 words, focus will also be given to days of the week, months of the year, seasons, basic weather terms, numbers 0 to a million, and basic colors. Although Immediate Immersion is not a thematic

curriculum, other basic themes will also be touched upon as they occur in basic conversation, including but not limited to school, animals, clothing, home, and food. Furthermore, students will be exposed to a wide variety of vocabulary through extensive reading incorporated in the curriculum.

Structures

Although we don't follow a typical scope and sequence, Immediate Immersion Spanish 1 does not limit exposure to grammatical structures. We use the structures that are needed to communicate correctly. So if subjunctive is needed, that's what's used. Although we don't limit exposure to any grammatical structure, Immediate Immersion Spanish 1 focuses on the following structures:

- ✓ present tense
- ✓ past tense (imperfect and preterite, though not the difference between the two)
- ✓ standard word order
- ✓ object pronouns (direct, indirect, and reflexive)
- ✓ gender (though not specifically assessed as it is a late-acquired skill)
- ✓ adjective agreement (though not specifically assessed as it is a late-acquired skill)
- ✓ immediate future
- ✓ present and past progressive

Culture

Culture is imbedded throughout the curriculum. Within the stories and readings, Immediate Immersion attempts to expose students to a wide range of Hispanic culture. Though in level one we focus more on Mexico and to a lesser extent Spain, other cultures are also included. As part of Immediate Immersion's Essential Content, we will focus on the following cultural topics:

- ✓ Mexican Independence Day
- ✓ Día de la Raza
- ✓ Día de los Muertos
- ✓ Christmas
- ✓ Easter
- ✓ Cinco de Mayo
- ✓ Quinceanera
- ✓ sports
- ✓ family
- ✓ school
- ✓ Aztecs
- ✓ Maya
- ✓ Inca
- ✓ Frog Juice—Peru
- ✓ Guinea Pig—Ecuador
- ✓ Lake Titicaca
- ✓ Mexico City
- ✓ Madrid
- ✓ Bull Fights
- ✓ Running of the Bulls