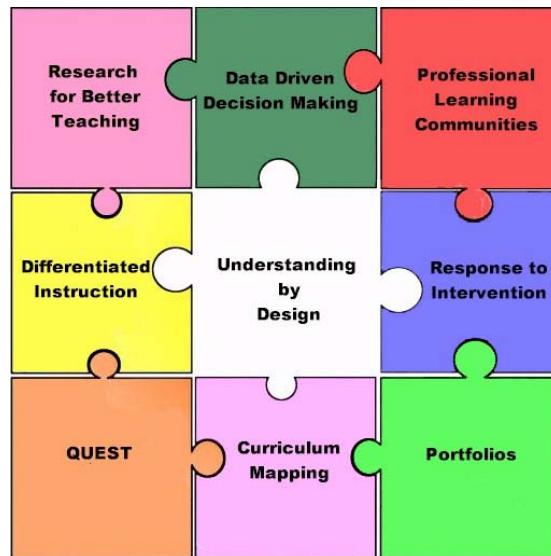


## Burlington School District Professional Development



### Mission statement:

We, as an educational community, seek to increase student learning and performance across the Burlington School District by enhancing teacher knowledge and skills through sustained collaboration in professional study groups.

*"It's about high expectations for all students. These three questions should guide all our work in schools:*

- *What is it we want all students to learn and be able to do?*
- *How will we know if they have learned it?*
- *What will we do when we determine they haven't?" (Rick DuFour)*

Curriculum Study Groups are formed by grade level for elementary; subject areas for middle school and secondary and some cross-discipline groups such as Art, Music and Physical Education. Each curriculum group has a teacher facilitator who works with the district Curriculum Director to plan and implement high quality, research based professional development activities.

The Curriculum Groups have four goals: 1) To continue to develop and refine K-12 curriculum based on the VT Standards and Grade Expectations. 2) To develop assessments to measure student progress. 3) To develop a reporting system to parents. 4) To identify and plan the professional development they need to accomplish the three previous goals.

Understanding by Design is the framework the district is using to align all of the initiatives in the puzzle above in order to achieve the following goals:

- Improve Student Achievement
- Provide Effective Instruction
- Encourage Collaboration
- Use Data Driven Decision Making (Focus on Learning and Results)

*"If schools want to enhance their capacity to boost student learning, they should work on building a collaborative culture... When groups, rather than individuals are seen as the main units for implementing curriculum, instruction, and assessment, they facilitate development and shared purposes for student learning and collective responsibility to achieve it." (Fred Newmann)*