

## Essential Questions

**Essential Questions** derive from the benchmarks and Grade-Level Expectations, and frame teaching and learning. They point toward key issues and ideas, suggesting meaningful and provocative inquiry into the content. Essential Questions have more than one answer. They promote analysis, stimulate thought, and spark additional questions. They set the stage for higher-order thinking and problem-based learning that promote the transfer of knowledge to new situations.

### Essential Questions for the Delaware Recommended Curriculum

- How can the components of the Delaware Recommended Curriculum help teachers and schools understand, create, and deliver aligned curriculum, instruction, and assessment?
- What kind of curricula and learning principles will ensure students' success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace and post-secondary education?
- What high-quality professional development can model alignment and *backward design* for Delaware teachers?

Examples of Essential Questions representing each content area are below:

#### English Language Arts Essential Questions

How can a reader recognize truth in text?

- How do effective writers hook and hold their readers?

#### Math Essential Questions

What makes an estimate *reasonable*?

How can change be described mathematically?

#### Science Essential Questions

How do science and technology influence each other?

How do the properties of materials determine their use?

#### Social Studies

What is the relationship between the political culture and experiences of a country and the form and structure of its government?

What are the consequences of citizens not participating in democracy?

#### Physical Education

What are the rules for movement?

How does my health benefit from being physically fit?

#### Visual and Performing Arts

Why do artists select one medium over another?

What influences people to create music?

#### World Languages

Are words alone sufficient for communication?

How does studying another culture make an individual understand and appreciate his/her own?