

WHAT IS UBD?



Excerpts from: The Understanding by Design Guide to Creating High-Quality Units
by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe (2011)



“We need to think of unit design as the intellectual equivalent of a GPS device in our car: by identifying a specific learning destination first, we are able to see the instructional path most likely to get us there.”

Understanding by Design (UBD) is an approach where the teachers are very clear on their students’ desired outcomes and “about the evidence that will show that learning has occurred” (p.7) before they lay out the day by day teaching plan. Planning using this model is typically done in three stages (p.8):

STAGE 1	<p>Start by identifying the desired outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What long-term transfer goals are targeted? (Big Idea)• What essential questions will students consider?• What knowledge and skills will students acquire? (Content/Competencies)• Why is this important?• How will students be able to transfer their understanding to other situations?
STAGE 2	<p>Determine what is acceptable evidence of understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What performances and product will reveal evidence of understanding?• By what criteria will this be assessed?• What additional evidence will be collected to demonstrate the Stage 1 desired results?• Are the assessments aligned to all Stage 1 elements?• Is typically done by developing an authentic performance task as part of the summative assessment.
STAGE 3	<p>Plan the learning experiences accordingly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What activities, experiences and lessons will lead my students to be successful in the assessment of the desired results?• How will progress be monitored?• How will the learning plan help students demonstrate their understanding in an authentic way?• How will the learning plan help students achieve a level of understand where their new knowledge can be transferred?

The **NVSD Unit Planner** is designed with these three stages in mind. For further detailed information on each of the stages, use the **NVSD Planning Support documents** found on the **Curriculum Hub** (nvsd44curriculumhub.ca)