

TEACHER FAQ

Q: Does planning take longer?

A: Our work has shown that the initial planning of the grids and alignment of the curriculum does take some time up front, however the day to day planning and all future planning is drastically reduced once the system is in place.

Q: How long is a unit using Mastery Grids?

A: The length of a unit is directly dependant on the contents of the Mastery Grid. A unit can be anywhere from 2 - 5 weeks but is determined by the type of activities, amount of content covered, and more importantly the pace of student learning.

Q: Does this work with my subject and grade level?

A: The Grid Method has been implemented successfully in almost all grade levels and subject areas. Lower grade levels can require additional modification for younger learners but foundational components have worked and can be used in any subject / grade taught.

Q: Can I still do group work and projects?

A: Group work and projects should be part of any classroom. Collaboration and the creation of products to show knowledge are an important part of engagement and demonstration of mastery. These things can absolutely be used within a Grid Method classroom either embedded in the Mastery Grid, separate from the grid, or partially in and out of the grid. There is flexibility to include all of these aspects.

Q: How do grades work within this system?

A: Grading, due to the various policies, and district / state initiatives requires flexibility. However, The Grid Method fully endorses a standards or target based approach to grading. The contents of the gradebook should represent knowledge and mastery of student learning based on carefully developed learning targets or standards covered within a unit. Grading should NOT include things like "Worksheet 2.4" but statements such as "The student can complete 2 step equations using a given method".

Q: Do students have to teach themselves?

A:

Self-paced learning is NOT self-taught learning. While learners may work through the content and master it at their own pace, The Grid Method should provide more opportunities to teach NOT less. As students continue working at their own pace there should be more chances for one on one instruction, intervention and instruction that the teacher has with each student.

Q: Can I get through all of my curriculum this way?

A:

Based on not only our experience but the existing research that exists, Mastery Learning does take longer than traditional models of instruction. With this said there are ways to motivate, encourage, and identify needs of students that can allow you to cover all the needed material for your class but to a higher level of mastery.

Q: When do I move on to the next unit?

A:

Moving from one Grid or Unit to the next is based on teacher preference. They can run Grids "Open" or in a "Closed - Unit to Unit" model. Using things like daily, weekly, and long term targets while students learn at their own pace are recommended. It should also be noted that moving to the next grid does NOT mean students can't show mastery on previous targets or continue to complete tasks outside of class.

Q: What about preparing for state tests?

A:

Teachers implementing the system have shown great success in all year end, and state tests. By teaching to mastery many students will acquire, retain, and be able to apply content at higher levels than ever before.

Q: Can I still do whole class instruction sometimes?

A:

Embedding whole group / class instruction, activities or experiences is easily accommodated with The Grid Method. You can either do them before "grid work" begins in what we call a "skill drill" OR you can simply provide these experiences on days where the students don't work through their individual grids but focus on the whole class experience. The Grid will then provide the content and structure to return to once the experience is over.

Q: Will this work with my textbook / curriculum?

A:

The Grid Method has been utilized with multiple curriculums, programs, softwares and textbook successfully.