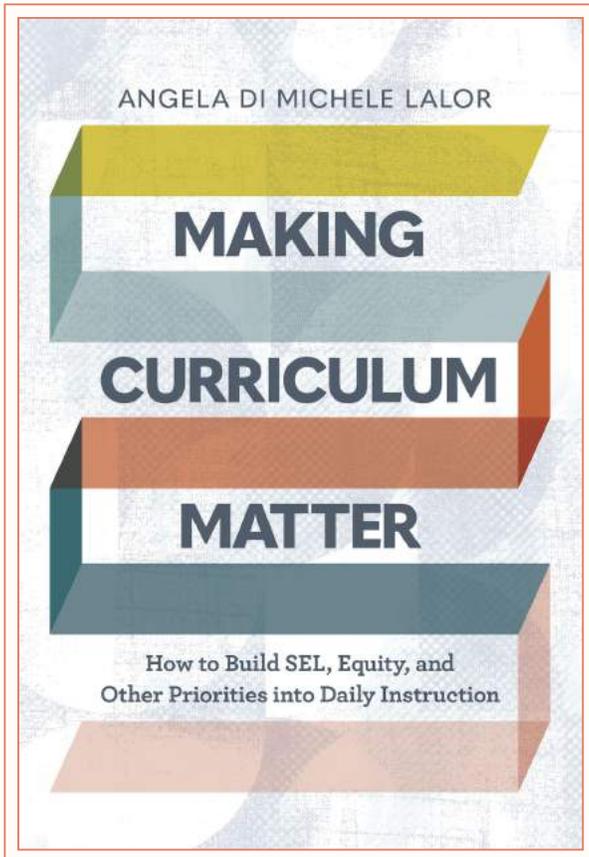


MEANINGFUL TEACHING AND LEARNING

Fall, 2021



Welcome! I am pleased to announce that my new book, ***Making Curriculum Matter: How to Build SEL, Equity and Other Priorities into Daily Instruction***, has been released by ASCD and is now available. This newsletter will provide you with an overview of the book and how it can be used in your school or classroom. Additional information and resources are available from my website, adladorconsulting.com.



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Article about the book and how it can be used to guide curriculum and instruction,
- Overview of the ***Curriculum that Matters Framework***
- Links to additional articles and resources

HOW DO YOU MAKE CURRICULUM MATTER?

Through years of working with educators, I've noticed more similarities than differences, especially when it comes to what they value for their students. These values are articulated in many ways including vision and mission statements, strategic coherence plans, *Portrait of a Graduate*, just to name a few. Schools spend a great deal of time, money and effort to ensure that student programs and professional development initiatives for their teachers, address these outcomes. Meanwhile, the curriculum, the tool that teachers use to make informed decisions about classroom practice, is often not aligned, creating a disconnect between these valued outcomes and what is taught.

The ***Curriculum that Matters Framework***, presented on the next page and described in my new book, ***Making Curriculum Matter: How to Build SEL, Equity and Other Priorities into Daily Instruction***, shows educators how to bring valued outcomes and curriculum and instruction together. Each chapter is devoted to one of the elements and provides information on how to incorporate the element into the curriculum, as well as strategies that teachers can use now for addressing the element in their classrooms.

This newsletter provides a brief overview of ***Curriculum that Matters Framework*** and gives insights on how to use the book, ***Making Curriculum Matter: How to Build SEL, Equity and Other Priorities into Daily Instruction***, for discussing and planning curriculum and instruction.



Elements of the Curriculum that Matters Framework

Equity



Equitable curriculum and instruction addresses the individualized attributes of students so they can engage in their learning and eliminates those practices that prevent students from reaching their full potential.

Civic Engagement and Discourse



Civic engagement provides opportunities for students to participate as local, state, national or global community members. It requires the skills to have conversations with those who have different opinions and learn from the experience.

Social and Emotional Learning



Social and emotional learning includes the skills and strategies for understanding and managing one's self, appreciating and developing relationships with others, and making responsible decisions.

Deep Thinking



Deep thinking is used in multi-step, complex tasks that require application, extension and the creation of something new. Students use different types of thinking skills such as empathize, analyze, evaluate, and create, and in doing so, engage in deep thinking.

Practices



Many disciplines have specific practices that are used authentically in fields related to that discipline. When students are taught how to use these tools and strategies, and come to rely on them when approaching new and unfamiliar situations, they have developed a practice.

What is the purpose of *Making Curriculum Matter: How to Build SEL, Equity and Other Priorities into Daily Instruction* ?

The elements of a **Curriculum that Matters Framework** are presented independently of each other to allow for discussion and analysis of curriculum and instruction. However, the reality is that they are deeply intertwined. For example, in a second grade class, students draw upon the social and emotional skill of empathy to generate ideas for welcoming new students. They also engage in deep thinking when they select an idea, and then create and carry it out.

Each chapter of the book explores one of the elements to provide a lens for viewing and discussing how it exists in curriculum and instruction and how it can be more intentionally integrated and leveraged to impact student learning. For teachers, engaging in the analysis using these elements, deepens understanding for more strategic implementation of each in the classroom. By intentionally integrating practices, deep thinking, social and emotional learning, civic participation and discourse, the curriculum creates a pathway for equitable learning experiences for all students. In the equity chapter, the reader is shown how to leverage the other elements of the framework to build equitable learning experiences.

While equity is the ultimate goal of *Making Curriculum Matter: How to Build SEL, Equity and Other Priorities into Daily Instruction*, it is also identified as a separate element for several reasons. The inclusion of Practices, Deep Thinking, Social and Emotional Skills, and Civic Engagement and Deep Thinking, may result in a high-quality curriculum and engaging learning experiences, however, additional steps must be taken to ensure all students have access to an equitable curriculum. First, the designers of the curriculum must do deep identity work to ensure to recognize how stereotypes and single-story narratives exist in the curriculum and what can be done to change them. Secondly, equity calls for the deliberate incorporation of students cultural and experiential backgrounds. Students need to take an active role in shaping what they are learning, how they are learning it and how they can achieve it; an often difficult goal to achieve with many programs schools use being scripted and packaged as a one size fits all approach to instruction.

How can you use, *Making Curriculum Matter: How to Build SEL, Equity and Other Priorities into Daily Instruction*, in your school or classroom?

Making Curriculum Matter: How to Build SEL, Equity and Other Priorities into Daily Instruction is an entry point into the examination of valued outcomes and aligning curriculum and instruction to them. The **Curriculum that Matters Framework** is not intended to look the same in every school. Schools approach each element in different ways. The book is filled with examples of how the elements can exist so educators can recognize the elements in their practices and create their own version of a **Curriculum that Matters**.

Making Curriculum Matter: How to Build SEL, Equity and Other Priorities into Daily Instruction provides guidance to schools for deepening their work. Every chapter is grounded in educational research that can serve as leads to additional information that schools can use in designing or revising their curriculum and adjusting instructional practices.

While each chapter addresses how the element is incorporated into the curriculum, it also provides specific instructional strategies that teachers can use immediately in their classrooms. It is not necessary to wait for the completed curriculum to make changes that will align instruction to valued outcomes for learning.

The **Curriculum that Matters Framework** and the curriculum design recommendations and instructional practices include in the book, serve as a reflective tool educators can use to create student pathways for equitable learning.

Schools Featured in Making Curriculum Matters

Southampton School District, New York
Ponus Ridge Middle School, Norwalk, Connecticut
Croton Harmon School District, New York
Fire Island School District, New York
MS 45 Thomas Giordano Middle School, Bronx, New York
PS 54 Hillside, Queens, New York
Adelphi University, Garden City, New York
PS108, Philip J. Abinanti School, Bronx, New York
Oak Park Community School District 97, Illinois



My Articles and Publications

[Creating a Culture of Learning: Edutopia](#)

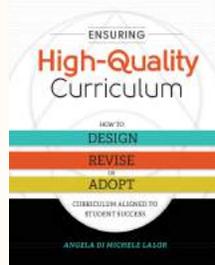
[Selecting Instructional Strategies Students Can Master: Edutopia](#)

[3 Steps to Developing an Asset-Based Approach to Teaching: Edutopia](#)

[Curriculum trend: 4 ways to become more competency-based, eSchool News](#)

[Thoughtful Selection of Informational Text, ASCD Express](#)

[Keeping the Destination in Mind, Educational Leadership](#)



Interested in learning about how to design a high-quality curriculum? Read my first book which explains the attributes and provides strategies and examples for incorporating them into your curriculum. It can be found [here](#).

For more information about my work and to receive newsletters or notifications of regional presentations, please sign-up on my [website](#).

Angela
Di Michele Lalor