



Professional Development Workshops

Tools and techniques to help educators drive student achievement



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Differentiated and Multi-age Instruction

Differentiated Instruction (K-12)

Provides an overview of differentiated instruction.

Learning Styles are discussed as well as their impact on the modification of content, process and products that meet the needs of individual students. (3 hours)

Differentiated Instruction in a Multi-Age Classroom (K-8)

Defines and addresses the purpose and design of differentiated instruction in the multi-age classroom. Provides practice in modifications of content, process, and products that meet the needs of individual students. Differentiated activities and strategies in essential questions, tiered instruction, and backward planning are discussed. (6 hours)

Differentiated Instruction in a Multi-Age Classroom: A Principal Overview (K-12)

This workshop focuses on how school administrators can support their teachers as they differentiate instruction in multi-age classrooms. Participants will review student learning styles; discuss identifying desired results and determining acceptable evidence in backward planning; explore how teachers can modify content, process and products for the multi-age classroom; and practice using a differentiated instruction observation tool. (3 hours)

Essential Questions: Taking a Closer Look at Differentiated Instruction (K-8)

Prerequisite: Differentiated Instruction in a Multi-Age Classroom

This workshop explores how essential questions support differentiated instruction within a multi-age classroom.

Participants discuss Bloom's Taxonomy and the work of Wiggins and McTighe to understand how essential questions stimulate student learning. Participants practice writing their own year-long and unit-specific essential questions which encourages students to craft their own knowledge using higher order thinking skills. (3 hours)

Backward Planning: Taking a Closer Look at Differentiated Instruction (K-8)

Prerequisites: Differentiated Instruction in a Multi-Age Classroom, Essential Questions

This workshop explores how backward planning supports differentiated instruction within a multi-age classroom.

Participants discuss numerous strategies and theories which support each of the three steps in backward planning. Activities are included, enabling participants to practice and discuss each phase of planning: Identifying Desired Results, Determining Acceptable Evidence, and Planning Learning Experiences. (3 hours)

Tiered Instruction: Taking a Closer Look at Differentiated Instruction (K-8)

Prerequisites: Differentiated Instruction in a Multi-Age Classroom, Essential Questions and Backward Planning

Explores how tiered instruction supports differentiated instruction within a multi-age classroom.

Teachers will learn and practice numerous planning strategies to help create learning experiences and assessments that meet the needs of all students in their classrooms. Teachers will understand how to create a learning environment that appropriately challenges each student based on his or her ability, age, readiness, learning style and interests. (3 hours)



Reading, Writing, Vocabulary

Unlocking the Main Idea (K-6)

Presents strategies on teaching students to find the main idea of a reading selection. Also includes hands-on activities, common test questions that require students to identify the main idea, and a discussion on how teachers can effectively implement the strategies in the classroom. (3 hours)

Vocabulary Strategies (K-12)

Addresses the importance of using vocabulary instructional strategies to ensure student academic success. During this workshop, participants review 'new vocabulary' instructional strategies that have been used effectively by classroom teachers. Participants learn about the various types of vocabularies everyone possesses, how to assess students to determine where vocabulary instruction should begin, and specific strategies and activities designed to increase students' reading vocabularies. Strategies and activities such as Peer Teaching, Cubing, SAVOR, Comparison Grids, Vocabulary Clusters, and Contextual Redefinition are presented and practiced. Activities and discussions focus on how to apply new strategies to teachers' individual classrooms. (3 hours)

Writing Strategies (K-8)

Focuses on the importance and impact of the writing process for student success. This workshop defines the five stages of the writing process and overviews multiple genres of writing. Teachers focus on the 6-Trait Writing Model, with discussion and applied practice in Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions. Includes interactive and collaborative writing activities for use in teachers' classrooms. (6 hours)

Phonemic Awareness Strategies (K-8)

Emphasizes the importance of phonemic awareness in the reading process. Provides teachers with phonemic awareness of instructional activities that develop students' abilities to rhyme, blend and segment sounds in words, substitute and delete sounds, isolate sounds, and syllabicate words. Interactive activities enable participants to practice using their new phonemic awareness skills and provide opportunity to discuss how they will implement what they learned when they return to their classrooms. (3 hours)

Phonics Strategies (K-8)

Presents phonics instructional activities that develop students' abilities to employ effective word attack skills to read text. Skills such as identifying onsets and rimes, knowing and employing the basic phonics and structural analysis rules, and identifying basic sight words are presented. A format for explicit phonic instruction and descriptions of activities that can be used in classroom instruction are provided. Teachers participate in the interactive activities and discuss how they will implement what they learned when they return to their classrooms. (3 hours)

Teaching Reading Comprehension to Emergent Readers (K-2)

This workshop discusses the importance of comprehension to reading for enjoyment and information. Essential reading strategies for comprehension are identified and modeled. Emphasis is placed on strategies for sustaining meaning and strategies for expanding meaning. Opportunities are provided to actively practice the strategies, and to create lessons designed to teach comprehension strategies to emerging readers. (3 hours)

Strategies to Improve Reading Comprehension (K-8)

Presents three comprehension strategies — Connect to Text, Predict and Prove, and Summarize and Synthesize — that support the importance of teaching reading comprehension strategies and related research. A focus on encouraging students to use learned strategies when reading through the use of scaffolding comprehension strategy instruction is also discussed. (2 and 2.5-hour versions)

Mathematics

Helping the Struggling Math Student (K-6)

Identifies the characteristics of a struggling math student. Participants review environmental and personal factors that inhibit students' learning of math concepts and explore strategies for helping these students succeed in the classroom. (1.5 hours)

Using Math Manipulatives in the Classroom: Manipulating the Manipulatives (K-6)

Focuses on the rationale, benefits, and limitations of using manipulatives to teach math concepts. Provides tips for effective use of manipulatives and incorporates an interactive, hands-on session to practice using two types of manipulatives: base ten blocks and fraction bars. Teachers also develop lesson objectives using other math manipulatives to share with other workshop participants. (2 hours)



Mathematics continued ...

Math Instructional Strategies in the K-8 Classroom (K-8)

This workshop focuses on strategies and best practices for implementing an interactive math program in the classroom that impacts student improvement. Teachers will explore instructional activities in each grade band and correlated ongoing assessment tasks as they create or revise lesson plans to take back to their classrooms. NCTM Principles and Standards will be referenced throughout the workshop. (6 hours)

Problem Solving (1-8)

Focuses on problem solving strategies for math grades 1-8. Participants work through three levels of problem solving strategies: Basic problem solving (Level I) using pictures and designs; Concrete problem solving (Level II) using objects, tables and lists; and Logical problem solving (Level III) using logical and proportional reasoning. Participants complete large and small group interactive activities to reinforce key concepts and best practices. (3 and 6 hour versions)

Technology

Using Technology in the Classroom: An Overview (K-12)

Explores the types of technology available to teachers and how technology can be used to enhance instruction. Participants will learn what the research says about technology and its role in creating a thoughtful, constructivist classroom. Strategies for integrating new technology into instruction and for managing students in a technology-centered classroom will be presented. Free resources from the Internet will be introduced, along with suggestions for using them with students. (3 hours)

Using the Internet to Enhance Instruction (K-12)

Participants in this hands-on workshop will explore how the internet can be used to enhance their students' learning experiences. This workshop is divided into three areas: resources for teachers to help with lesson planning; productivity tools that help students manage their time and materials; and research techniques and tools to produce better web searches and more reliable information. The workshop will conclude with sharing time for teachers to let others know their favorite Internet resources. (3 hours)

Classroom Management

Classroom Management (Part 1): Strategies for Developing a Behavior Management Plan (1-8)

Develops a class management plan for teachers and addresses the following topics: Gaining Empowerment Through an Understanding of Teacher Rights and Responsibilities Toward Behavior, Learning Key Components of a Behavior Management Plan, Creating and Enforcing

Positive Behavior Through Appropriate Consequences and Positive Recognition, and Learning to Create a Hierarchical Discipline Plan. (2 hours)

Classroom Management (Part 2): Behavior Interventions in the Classroom (1-8)

Reinforces and builds on topics from Classroom Management Part 1. Teachers learn about the attitudes that contribute to escalation and de-escalation in student behavior, components that contribute to student behavior escalation, and remediation strategies. Teachers practice setting limits with students and gain practical information about how to intervene during particularly difficult situations. (3 hours)

Time on Task - Maximizing Learning (K-12)

Provides strategies to monitor and increase time on task. Teachers will understand how to implement strategies to increase time on task and student engagement. Discussions include optimum use of teacher time and internal and external "time robbers." Participants will engage in activities that will assist them with time management and how to maximize time during the school day. (3 hours)

Social Skills - Fostering a Positive Classroom Environment (K-8)

This workshop will focus on specific strategies for social skills training including manners and positive interactions with others, appropriate classroom behavior and better ways to manage frustration/anger. Participants will discuss strategies to individualize the training for students with special needs. The majority of the workshop includes participation in training approaches and classroom activities which foster a positive and inclusive classroom environment. (3 hours)



Instructional Strategies

Promoting Higher Order Thinking Skills (K-12)

Presents models, strategies, and techniques to promote higher order thinking skills in the classroom. Cognition versus metacognition and Bloom's Taxonomy are also topics of discussion. (2 hours)

Strategies for Review and Retention (K-12)

Presents interactive strategies that demonstrate how teachers can help students review and retain information. Also includes a discussion on the use of games such as Jeopardy, Taboo, and Pictionary to motivate students and review units of study. (2 hours)

Questioning Strategies for Active Thinking (K-12)

Focuses on the importance of using a variety of questioning strategies with all types of text. Presents three questioning strategies utilizing Bloom's Taxonomy: Reciprocal Questioning, KWL Plus, and Question Answer Relationship (QAR). (3 hours)

Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences (K-8)

Presents practical suggestions and activities on the three learning styles and eight multiple intelligences. Includes a discussion on how to integrate understanding of learning styles and intelligences to best meet the needs of every learner. (2 hours)

Interactive and Engaging Teaching Strategies (K-8)

Presents attention-grabbing strategies for engaging students in the learning process through the use of alternatives to "lecture," icebreakers, energizers, and hands-on review activities. Also includes a discussion of guidelines for establishing and maintaining an "active" classroom. Teachers walk away with easy to implement activities and ideas that can be used immediately. (2, 3, or 6-hour versions)

Cooperative Learning (K-12)

Provides an overview of cooperative learning including research to support the effectiveness of the cooperative teaching methodology. Participants learn to engage students in a cooperative learning environment through effective grouping, the use of T-Charts, M-Charts, movement, VCR, praise, and encouragement. Teachers receive activities and lessons to assist with the implementation of cooperative learning. (3 hours)

Test Taking Strategies (K-12)

Provides strategies for teachers to assist students in preparing for norm-referenced standardized and classroom or benchmark tests. Participants learn strategies designed to improve student's test-taking skills. Other topics of discussion include test anxiety, academic preparation, physical preparation, motivation and attitude on test performance. (2 hours)

Parental Involvement

Establishing Effective Parent-School Partnerships (K-8)

Provides teachers with strategies to get parents involved, develop positive parent/teacher relationships, facilitate effective parent/teacher conferences, and communicate with limited English speaking parents. (3 hours)

Team Planning

Teachers Planning as a Team in Schools (K-12)

Models and techniques are presented for exploring team membership and team member relationships in schools. Team membership and collaboration are examined in the context of building a climate for teaming. Strategies for establishing teaming and fostering solid team organization will be presented through activities based upon research and best practices. (3 hours)

