The Instructional Core

1 Curriculum

This module explores various ways that educators create, adapt, adopt, and modify curriculum. Its topics include curriculum; standards; learning progressions; curriculum development, especially backwards design; curriculum coherence, high expectations and depth of knowledge; extended learning standards, and textbooks as curriculum guides.

2 Instruction

This module reviews the latest research about effective instruction as a basis for encouraging educators to reach a shared understanding of what constitutes high-quality instructional practice. Topics include effective instruction, matching instruction to student needs, planning and designing engaging lessons and units, determining if instruction is effective, and providing learning opportunities for all students.

3 Assessment

This module explores educational assessment as it is used to monitor the effectiveness of instructional and systemic practices and to identify needs of districts, schools and students. It focuses on topics such as applying assessment within an MTSS framework, curriculum-based assessment, and how leadership teams can use assessment.

4 Learning Supports

Focused actions at all levels of the education system can create and sustain learning supports that contribute to the academic success of all students. This module is organized to examine learning supports from the perspective of an MTSS framework and compatible frameworks such as Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy.

"Effective leaders create a culture of sustained and open collaboration where educators learn from one another around a common set of beliefs. These beliefs include a focus on equity and abilities, a belief that together we can meet the needs of all learners through focused collaboration, a belief that all learners deserve a supportive learning environment, and a belief that all students deserve access to rigorous curriculum. Teaching and learning is the priority, coupled with student well-being."

--Jim Gay, OLAC Co-director

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