Building a Schoolwide Independent Reading Culture

Developing habits for independent reading takes time, explicit instruction, and practice. This course is designed to help school and district leaders build or enhance a schoolwide culture in which independent reading of self-selected texts occurs daily in all classrooms and at home. You will explore the use of surveys and a classroom visit instrument to determine the status of independent reading throughout a school community and learn to synthesize these data to develop a plan to address needs. Additionally, you will learn and be able to apply resources to look-for implementation of instructional practices taught and discussed during professional learning. Finally, you will review what worked and set a course for next steps.

Course Objectives

Module 1

• Understand the elements of a comprehensive, schoolwide independent reading culture.
• Understand, implement, and examine data from the Independent Reading Best Practices Survey.
• Analyze data from the survey to determine your staff’s knowledge and use of best practices related to independent reading.

Module 2

• Understand the importance of access to texts and the qualities of a good school and classroom library.
• Administer survey and analyze data about students’ access to texts in the classroom and at home.

Module 3

• Understand the look-for criteria on the Independent Reading Classroom Visit Instrument and the process for gathering the data.
• Conduct classroom visits using the Independent Reading Classroom Visit Instrument.
• Analyze data to note patterns of strength and areas needed for growth within the classroom.

Module 4

• Identify key elements of data patterns from all survey tools.
• Create an independent reading plan based on the data from surveys and classroom visits.

Module 5

• Describe look-for indicators of classroom visits to monitor professional learning implementation.
• Create a professional learning opportunity to align with your independent reading plan.

Module 6

• Reflect on progress made with implementing the independent reading plan.
• Determine next areas of focus to improve independent reading for students.
## Course Syllabus

### Module 1  What Is an Independent Reading Culture?
- Module Welcome
- Reading 1: Building a Schoolwide Independent Reading Culture
- Video: A Discussion of the Teacher Survey
- Reading 2: Elements of a Schoolwide Independent Reading Culture
- Reading 3: EL—Every Child, Every Day
- Knowledge Check
- Application 1: Analyzing Survey Results
- Application 2: Distribute and Analyze Best Teacher Practices Survey Results
- Post-Module Reflection

### Module 2  Determining the Status of Independent Reading
- Module Welcome
- Reading 1: The Importance of the Classroom Library
- Reading 2: Looking at Classroom Libraries
- Video 1: Interpreting Data from Classroom Library Survey
- Application 1: Classroom Library Survey Results
- Application 2: Analyze Classroom Library Survey Results
- Video 2: Configuring a Classroom Library
- Reading 3: Kids and Family Reading Report
- Video 3: Including Families in Reading Efforts
- Reading 4: The Home Connection and Reading
- Application 3: Family Reading Survey Results
- Knowledge Check
- Application 4: Analyze Family Reading Survey Results
- Post-Module Reflection
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