

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 where independent reading in self-selected texts occurs daily in all classrooms and at home. You will learn about and use surveys and a classroom visit instrument to determine the status of independent reading throughout a school community. Then, you will 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

<p>Module 1</p>	<p>What Is an Independent Reading Culture?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Building a Schoolwide Independent Reading Culture • Video: A Discussion of the Teacher Survey • Handout: Elements of a Schoolwide Independent Reading Culture • Online Reading 2: <i>EL</i>—Every Child, Every Day • Check for Understanding • Guided Practice: Analyzing Survey Results • Application: Distribute and Analyze Best Teacher Practices Survey Results • Module Journal
<p>Module 2</p>	<p>Determining the Status of Independent Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Online Reading 1: The Importance of the Classroom Library • Reading 2: Looking at Classroom Libraries • Video 1: Interpreting Data from Classroom Library Survey • Guided Practice 1: Classroom Library Survey Results • Application 1: Analyze Classroom Library Survey Results • Video 2: Configuring a Classroom Library • Online Reading 3: Kids and Family Reading Report • Video 3: Including Families in Reading Efforts • Reading 4: The Home Connection and Reading • Guided Practice 2: Family Reading Survey Results • Check for Understanding • Application 2: Analyze Family Reading Survey Results • Module Journal

<p>Module 3</p>	<p>Conducting Classroom Visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Online Reading 1: Using Classroom Walkthroughs to Improve Instruction • Reading 2: Classroom Visits: Looking for Independent Reading • Video: Conducting Classroom Visits • Check for Understanding • Guided Practice: Analyze Data from Classroom Visits • Application: Analyze Data from Classroom Visits • Module Journal
<p>Module 4</p>	<p>Devise an Annual Independent Reading Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Develop and Implement a Schoolwide Literacy Action Plan • Reading 2: Creating an Independent Reading Plan • Video: Creating a Plan to Enhance Independent Reading • Check for Understanding • Guided Practice: An Independent Reading Plan for Madison Elementary School • Application: Build an Independent Reading Plan • Module Journal
<p>Module 5</p>	<p>Evaluating Professional Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Using Professional Learning to Improve Independent Reading • Reading 2: Developing an Independent Reading Plan • Check for Understanding • Guided Practice: Add to the Madison Independent Reading Plan • Application: Add to Your Independent Reading Plan • Module Journal
<p>Module 6</p>	<p>Evaluate and Extend an Independent Reading Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Continuous Improvement and Planning for Phases 2 and 3 • Reading 2: Madison Independent Reading Planning for Phases 2 and 3 • Check for Understanding • Guided Practice: Sketch a Phase 3 Plan for Madison • Application: Add to Your Independent Reading Plan • Module Journal

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