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

### 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
- Handout: Elements of a Schoolwide Independent Reading Culture
- Online Reading 2: EL—Every Child, Every Day
- Check for Understanding
- Guided Practice: Analyzing Survey Results
- Application: Distribute and Analyze Best Teacher Practices Survey Results
- Module Journal

### Module 2  
**Determining the Status of Independent Reading**
- 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
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