INTRODUCING TEACHSCAPE

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STRATEGIC INSTRUCTION MODEL ON ADOLESCENT LITERACY

To begin to improve literacy instruction, the Literacy Leadership Team (LLT) needs to understand the immensity of the adolescent literacy problem that exists today. Through the use of resources in the Teachscape Module: Adolescent Literacy/Addressing the Challenge of Adolescent Literacy, the Literacy Leadership Team (LLT) will be introduced "to a proposed solution that addresses the many aspects pertaining to the need to attain content literacy for all students" – the Strategic Instruction Model/Content Literacy Continuum (SIM/CLC). The LLT will begin their journey through this module by using some of the resources: taking a survey on literacy, viewing and discussing four short videos and participating in a relfection activity. As time permits, the LLT will want to further explore the additional resources in this module and the other modules in the series: Leading a School-wide Literacy Initiative, Planning for Strategic Instruction and Embedding Strategies.

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ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STRATEGIC INSTRUCTION MODEL (SIM) AND THE CONTENT LITERACY CONTINUUM

PROCEDURE

PRIOR TO MEETING: Ensure all Literacy Leadership Team (LLT) members have registered for Teachscape and have their passwords. If time permits, have them individually preview the module: Adolescent Literacy: Addressing the Challenge. (At minimum, be sure the facilitator has access to the Teachscape site and projection equipment and has previewed the module Adolescent Literacy: Addressing the Challenge ["Think About Literacy" in the **Introduction Folder** and the activities and videos in the **Challenge of Adolescent Literacy** Folder]. The facilitator should post a question in the Discussion section: "I believe my role in improving literacy in my school is…."

Step 1: Facilitator should provide an introduction to the Teachscape Online Module -- **Adolescent Literacy: Addressing the Challenge** and an advanced organizer for the specific activity. Additionally, s(he) should guide members through registering and/or accessing the module and how to use the left hand bar to move through the various resources in the module.

AN ONLINE MODULE THAT DESCRIBES THE CURRENT REALITIES OF ADOLESCENT LITERACY AND A PROPOSED SOLUTION

The "Addressing the Challenge" Module provides an opportunity to review the research on adolescent literacy and hear commentaries from experts in the field. strategies for school.

Purpose of activity: To learn about the challenges facing school leaders as the work on improving what they do to meet the literacy needs of all students.

Time to allow for activity: Approximately 60-75 minutes.

Materials needed: Individual computers and internet access and/or projection equipment; access codes to Teachscape for all LLT

Step 2: If this is the first time LLT members have accessed the Teachscape resource, give them approximately 5 minutes to preview various parts of the modules. If not, proceed to introduce the module through the activities in the Introduction folder concluding with the survey in **Think About Literacy**. Discuss each of the items in the survey and have members share new insights or reactions to items.

Step 3: Proceed to the next folder of activities: **Challenge of Adolescent Literacy**. Facilitator should display the Lesson Organizer and preview the four parts of the lesson and the Self-Questions that members will be able to answer after completing the lesson activities. Members will then review the focus question(s)s for each video prior to viewing and discuss their answers to the focus question(s) after viewing.

Video	Focus Question (s)
What is Adolescent Literacy? (Hear About It – first video) (Learn More – second video)	Why focus on adolescent literacy? Prior: What adolescent literacy challenges do students and school leaders face? After: What challenges did the students and school leaders discuss, and what solutions did they offer for overcoming those challenges?
Academic Competence (Hear About It) (Learn More)	What are the Building Blocks for Academic Competence? Provide 5 minutes for members to learn more about the Building Blocks and then discuss Focus Question.
Performance Gap (Hear About It—first video) (Learn More)	What is the Performance Gap? What effect does the Performance Gap have on teachers and students?
Closing the Gap (Hear About It) Learn More	What can schools do to close the gap? What interventions and supports do you think are needed in your district? Provide 10 minutes for members to work with a partner to determine what supports are currently in place that support literacy and what supports need to be put in place to support literacy. Have partners share with LLT.

Step 4: Next, the facilitator should introduce the Schoolhouse graphic for SIM/CLC and have members share their current understanding of how the Strategic Instruction Model and the Content Literacy Continuum offer an integrated approach to addressing the challenges of literacy in their classroom and school-wide.

Step 5: To summarize the activities that they have completed thus far, LLT members should "take some time to reflect on what they have learned and how it may or may not affect what is happening in their classroom and school."

> **Discussion:**
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> • What current realities are educators facing in secondary schools that make the improvement of literacy so difficult?
> • How does understanding the Building Blocks for Academic Competence help school leaders improve instructional delivery?

Step 6: To close the meeting and to introduce a tool for ongoing discussion, the facilitator should have all members visit the Discussion forum (left hand bar) and answer the posted question: I believe my role in improving literacy in my school is…."

Note: It is suggested that an additional Discussion forum be set up through Teachscape for access by LLT members only (LLT Discussion), so members can feel free to share and have an ongoing discussion between LLT meetings.. The current Discussion forum is open to all staff at the site who have registered for access to Teachscape.