

WASC Instructional Focus Plan

Critical Areas of Focus

- 1: Increase proficiency in reading for all students across core subject areas.
- 2: Increase proficiency in writing for all students across core subject areas.
- 3: Increase proficiency in math for all students.

Instructional Focus

a. Grade level standards based tasks

All learning activities, instructional projects and tasks are intentionally designed to help students master California Common Core Standards appropriate for that particular grade level and subject. These tasks are used as either a step to build mastery towards the standard(s) or as an artifact to demonstrate mastery. Learning objectives are used to communicate the daily expectations for student learning and support the course sequence and pacing.

b. Incorporate rigor – Depth of Knowledge

Rigor is defined as the process of categorizing thinking tasks and content according to the level of cognitive complexity.

The four elements of DOK are level one recall, level two skills and concepts, level three strategic thinking, and level four extending thinking. The ultimate instructional goal should be to move student engagement, comprehension and thinking across a balanced range of all four levels throughout the unit.

c. Increase student communication and collaboration

Strategically creating opportunities so that student learning is not simply limited to one-way (teacher to student) interactions. Instructional strategies are intentionally planned and implemented so that academic conversations and learning incorporate communication and collaboration between student to student, student to content, and student to teacher interactions.

d. Provide English language learner support

Understand your students' unique needs (i.e. reading, writing, listening, and speaking) so that individualized English language learner strategies are incorporated daily. Instructional strategies are incorporated into all disciplines to emphasize content connections, comprehensibility, connections to prior knowledge, and opportunities for student interaction.

Implementation Timeline

August 2017: Teacher awareness of WASC focus strategies

September 11, 2017: Teacher knowledge/skill development

September 15, 2017: WASC focus elements posted in all rooms (Learning objectives whiteboard, Interaction Triangle, DOK chart)

October 2017: Student understanding of learning objectives and DOK assignment

Ongoing individual teacher conference support throughout the year will be provided.