Closing the Achievement Gap: Best Practices and Initiatives that Work

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Session Outcomes

Participants in this session will be briefed on use-the-next-day strategies and easy-to-implement initiatives that are currently being used to close the achievement gap in an elementary school setting. Strategies focus around the Profile of the SC Graduate, and include the following:

PBIS Lanyard and Pin system

Intervention/Differentiation Blocks with a "push-in" model

STEM

Project-Based Learning

School of Journalism

3-Minute Walk-Throughs

District Evidence/Learning Walks
District Instructional Priorities

1. Defined Curriculum & Assessments
2. Generous, Purposeful Reading & Writing
3. 21st Century Technology Skills

PROFILE OF THE SC GRADUATE

Collaboration

Engagement

Rigor
PROFILE OF THE
South Carolina Graduate

WORLD-CLASS KNOWLEDGE

Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness

Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences

LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

Integrity • Self-direction • Global perspective • Perseverance • Work ethic • Interpersonal skills

WORLD-CLASS SKILLS

Creativity and innovation

Critical thinking and problem solving

Collaboration and teamwork

Communication, information, media and technology

Knowing how to learn

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AdvancED Improvement Priority

Primary Instructional Goal

Develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate initiatives to increase student achievement (to include but limited to closing the achievement gap and increasing standardized test scores).

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Panth er PRIDE
Positive, Respectful, Involved, Determined, Enthusiastic

Reward with intrinsic value (PBIS)

“Letterman Jacket” philosophy

Rewards: Lanyard (given at Ceremony), pins, and drawings
PANTHER TIME

- Two intervention blocks - one for ELA, one for Math
- "Push-in" model that also includes RTI
- Four Reading and Math interventionists
- Incorporation of Daily Five
- Technology station
STEM

Curiosity and creativity

Coding/Computer Programming

Monthly STEM Trainings for Teachers

5th Grade Maker Faire

STEM Challenges and Makerspaces

Trial and error--learning from failure

Lego Lab
Project Based Learning

1:1 initiative

Real-world scenario with a driving question

Project does the teaching itself, teacher in facilitator role

Collaboration, innovation, communication

https://docs.google.com/a/lex3.k12.sc.us/document/d/1hqnM8bcZbVDDzVywilRH9PCyM0CDD8s45dv3gaSCz-b
School of Journalism
Careers in digital and print media
News, Sports, Meteorology, Entertainment, and Culinary
Focus on writing skills, public speaking, and technology
Future field trips to news agencies and universities
3 Minute Walk-Throughs

Accountability

Feedback

Praise

Examples: Environment, Engagement, Essential Questions, Math Stations

https://docs.google.com/a/lex3.k12.sc.us/document/d/1Wku3FABMB_eLV8vMkwweTudVIcOlRgb-fMHP1cBlsc4/edit?usp=sharing
District Evidence Walks

Focus on powerful practices

Provides opportunity for feedback to school administrators

Develops a common language across the district

Allows for sharing of research-based practices and professional learning opportunities for closing the achievement gap

Engages school and community leaders in opportunities to examine and provide feedback around evidence of powerful practices
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