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

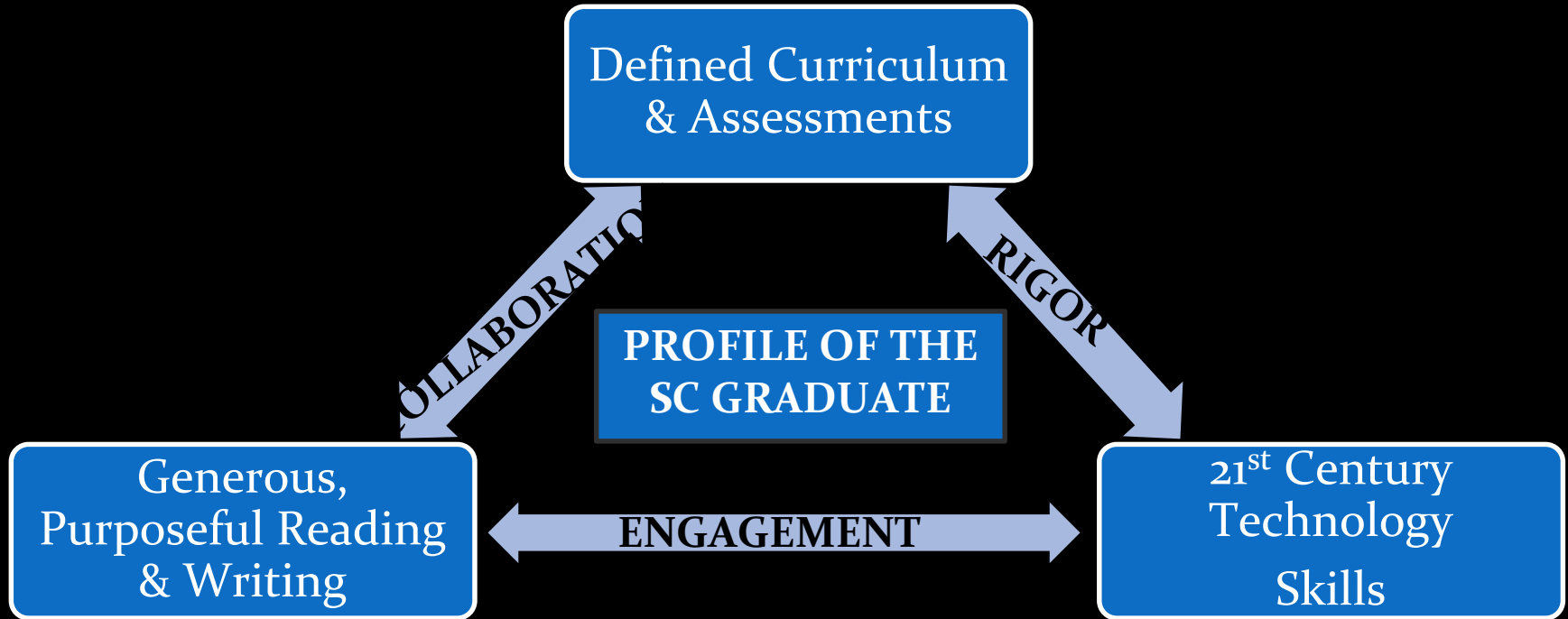Intervention/Differentiation Blocks with a "push-in" model
STEM
Project-Based Learning
School of Journalism
3-Minute Walk-Throughs
District Evidence/Learning Walks

District Instructional Priorities

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

WORLD-CLASS SKILLS

Creativity and innovation

Critical thinking and problem solving

Collaboration and teamwork

Communication, information, media and technology

Knowing how to learn

LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

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

transformSC
tomorrow won't wait for our students

AN INITIATIVE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVENESS

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).

- November, 2015

Panther 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

Monthly STEM Trainings for Teachers

STEM

curiosity and creativity

STEM Challenges and Makerspaces

Trial and error-- learning from failure

Coding/ Computer Programming

5th Grade Maker Faire

Lego Lab

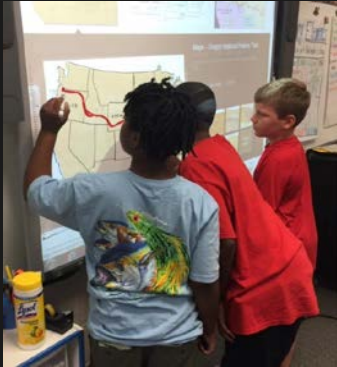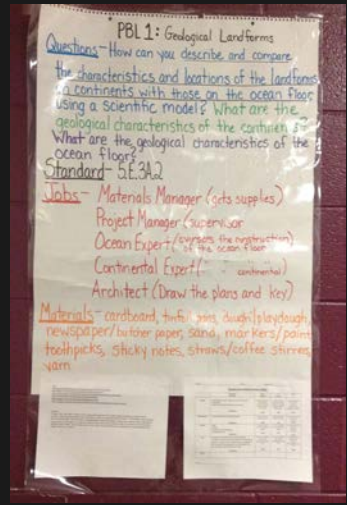# Project Based Learning

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/1hqnM8bcZbVDDzVy
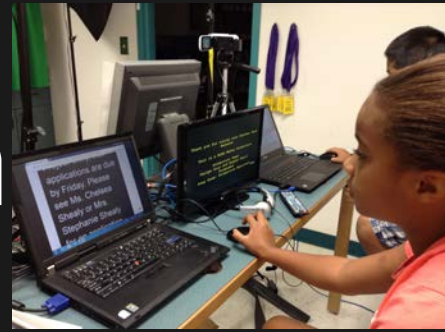   wLBH9RCyM0CDD8s45dy3gasGz_b

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_eLV8vMkwweTudVIcOIRgb-fMHP1cBlsc4/edit?usp=sharing

District Evidence Walks

Focus on powerful practices

Provides opportunity for feedback to school administrators

Develops a common language across the distric...

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
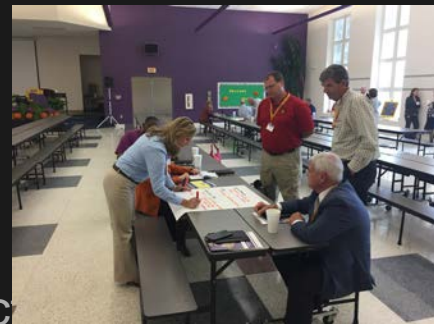
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