It's ALL About the Implementation!

It's an exciting time for ELA and ELD with the recent adoption of long-awaited new materials. After years of piecing together a program, there are finally shiny new books, aligned to common core state standards and chock full of great strategies and resources. Sounds great, right?

Well, as with most new initiatives in schools, it really all comes down to how it is implemented. It's one thing to unwrap all of those new materials and distribute to classrooms, it's a whole other thing to have a solid, well-thought out and supported implementation.

Of course, professional development is key in implementing a new program, but there are a host of other factors to consider as well. Nancy Protheroe, in “The Impact of Implementation in Effective Standards-Based Instruction,” https://www.naesp.org/resources/1/Principal/2008/S-O_p38.pdf asserts that, “even programs that research demonstrates can have a strong positive impact on student learning must be put into practice every day in the way developers intended because no program-no matter how sound it is- can have impact if its essential elements are not used.” This brings up a lot of issues then to attend to, in implementing a new program effectively.

It just so happens we will be looking at this issue this month (Nov. 16 & Dec. 7) in a brand new event we are hosting entitled, “It’s ALL About the Implementation: Tips and Tools for getting the Most Out of Your New ELA/ELD Program.” We’ll explore some key elements that need to be in place and systems for supporting your new program. To register, click this link: http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-113439

Has Your School/District Developed A Cohesive Integrated ELD System?

Another issue that is on the minds of educators right now is how to design an integrated ELD system that all teachers can both buy into and implement with an intentionality that impacts actual student learning. A solid integrated ELD system truly has the potential to move English learners to the next level academically and hit some of the long-term issues that have stymied growth in this sub-group.

We’ll be taking a look at this issue in another new event, “Developing a Cohesive and Effective System for Integrated ELD” slated for Nov. 29 and Dec. 9th. Bring a team and we’ll work together to design a plan for your school/district that you can implement this year! To register: http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-113443
We are super excited about a new conference we are hosting—Literacy Lifts: Engaging the At-Risk Learner in the Digital Age. It will be a day filled with uplifting literacy presentations, practical strategy breakouts and some amazing student presentations. We’re also hosting a book fair to support a classroom library at a school in Kenya. Bring colleagues and spend a fabulous day with us! Space is limited, so register soon!

Many thanks to the amazing educators who participated in our Literacy Leaders Collaborative on October 21st! We are studying Elena Aguilar’s fantastic book, The Art of Coaching: Effective Strategies for School Transformation.

In this session we looked at Part I: Foundations of Coaching and delved into some hefty issues including how coaching can transform schools in a way that few other initiatives can. We loved Aguilar’s assertion that, “In order to meet the needs of all students, we must also transform the experience for the adults who work in schools. Until we address the social, emotional, and learning needs of educators, we won’t be able to transform the experience for students” (p. xiv). What a concept! Usually the sole focus of schools is on the students, but Aguilar makes a great case for also attending to the needs of the adults.

We’ll be continuing this book at our next meeting, so if you missed Day 1, you can still join us for Day 2 on December 14th: http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-113199
We’ll bring extra copies of the books for new folks!

Have a great month!!

Leslie & Della

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