

K-6 School Improvement

Root Cause - English Learners have not shown proficiency in academic English as shown by the achievement gap on the MCA reading assessment.

Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Strategy - Structured Productive Language Opportunities

The teacher will...

- ✓ **Anchor instruction in a common shared experience**: Teachers strategically use instructional tools such as video clips visuals (pictures, 3-D models, demonstrations, etc.) and graphic organizers to stimulate discussions amongst students.
- ✓ **Explicitly teach the content-specific academic vocabulary**: Teachers should identify the content-specific words that are essential to understand the content as well as the general academic words that aid in understanding the content-specific words.
- ✓ **Provide daily opportunities for academic conversations**: Teachers facilitate opportunities for students to engage in academic conversations in either small groups or pairs multiple times per day.
- ✓ **Provide opportunities for students to extend their thinking with writing**: Teachers must provide opportunities either before or after students engage in academic conversations to allow students to practice the content language in writing assignments.

Root Cause - Lack of staff awareness of culturally and linguistically diverse students and their culture and how it impacts their learning.

Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Strategy - Culturally Relevant Pedagogy

The teacher will provide...

- ✓ **Multiple opportunities for success**: Teachers provide different opportunities and avenues for students to demonstrate and experience academic success while holding rigorous expectations for all students.
- ✓ **Connections between content and culture**: Teachers identify ways that students' culture can be used to promote learning or demonstrate mastery creating a bridge between students' culture and the content being taught in the classroom.
- ✓ **Development of critical consciousness**: Teachers regularly provide opportunities and practice for students to examine and critique cultural norms, institutions, and social systems within the context of learning in the subject areas.

If you are interested in learning more about our SMART goals or our School Improvement Plan please email Joy Freitag at jfreitag@gsl.k12.mn.us