

Voices Academy Classroom Best Practices

Student Engagement

- ✓ Students on-task
- ✓ Students actively participating (listening, reading, writing, discussing, thinking, applying, practicing)
- ✓ Students asking and answering a range of questions (factual to higher order thinking)
- ✓ Joy Factor evident

Standards-Based

- ✓ Evidence of standards-based lessons in room (written and orally stated)
- ✓ Standards-based student work posted
- ✓ Students know what they are learning
- ✓ Alignment between grade levels

Individualized Instruction

- ✓ Workshop model
- ✓ Guided Reading
- ✓ Small group and 1 on 1 work
- ✓ Online personalized learning
- ✓ Station rotations (centers)

Direct Instruction

- ✓ Mini lessons
- ✓ Teacher facilitation
- ✓ Think-aloud
- ✓ Guided practice
- ✓ Independent work
- ✓ Exit Ticket

Classroom Environment

- ✓ Word Wall
- ✓ Student Data Wall
- ✓ Cooperative seating (desk clusters, carpets)
- ✓ Guided reading area
- ✓ Teacher/student co-created lesson resources posted (rather than commercial materials)

- ✓ Evidence of the “joy factor”
- ✓ College Wall
- ✓ Student and Teacher Relationships: Respectful and Nurturing

Second Language Learner Support

- ✓ Language and vocabulary objectives posted
- ✓ Cooperative learning groupings
- ✓ Activate and build prior knowledge
- ✓ Sentence frames & oral language practice
- ✓ Hands-on, real materials, manipulatives (learning tools), pictures, illustrations
- ✓ SIOP and Systematic ELD strategies

Balanced Literacy includes:

- ✓ Guided Reading
- ✓ Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop
- ✓ Independent reading and writing
- ✓ Fluency practice
- ✓ Comprehension focus
- ✓ Word Study

Balanced Math includes:

- ✓ Conceptual focus
- ✓ Guided and independent practice
- ✓ Automaticity practice
- ✓ Spiral Review
- ✓ Application practice

