

Collegial Circle Final Report

Please complete all information on this form. After it is complete, send it to the Teacher Center along with other supporting documentation. Electronic copies are preferred whenever possible.

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE INFORMATION

Title of Circle: Integration of SS and ELA Content, Level 2 Standards Area: SS and ELA-year long units
Facilitator: Elyse Cushman School(s): ACE and PRE
Beginning Date: Oct. 21, 2024 Ending Date: May 12, 2025 # of Hours: 9
Please submit copies of the following to this report:

- ✓ Collegial Circle Attendance Log
- ✓ Collegial Circle Meeting Log
- ✓ Samples of strategies implemented, materials created, or student work samples where applicable
- ✓ Collegial Circle Reflection Sheets - completed by each participant

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE DESCRIPTION

What was the anticipated goal(s) of this Collegial Circle?

The goal of this collegial circle was to collaboratively explore and implement strategies for integrating ELA standards into social studies instruction. By aligning literacy skills with content area learning, the group aimed to enhance students' critical thinking, reading comprehension, and writing abilities within meaningful historical and civic contexts

What grade level(s) and or subject area(s) will benefit from this Circle?

5th grade in both ACE and PRE have benefited from this circle in both ELA and social studies instructional areas.

What level of Guskey's Professional Development Evaluation did you select for this Circle?

Level 4: Participants use of knowledge and skills

FINAL REFLECTIONS

Was the goal of your Collegial Circle met? Please explain.

The goal of the circle was successfully met, as members effectively collaborated to integrate the ELA standards and instructional units into social studies instruction. Through shared planning, resource development, and instructional practice, the teachers at PRE enhanced their ability to embed literacy skills into content-rich lessons, resulting in more engaging and standards-aligned learning experiences for students, while providing ACE teachers with a chance to continue to refine and improve rigorous, meaningful instruction for students.

How did the members of this Collegial Circle assess whether the outcome was met? What evidence was utilized to assess your progress?

Participants assessed that the outcome of the collegial circle was met through several methods, including:

1. **Student Work Samples** – Reviewing student writing, projects, and assessments that demonstrated integration of ELA skills (e.g., citing evidence, analyzing texts) within social studies content.
2. **Lesson Plan Reflections** – Comparing pre- and post-circle lesson plans to evaluate increased alignment with ELA standards.
3. **Peer Feedback and Observations** – Engaging in peer observations or sharing teaching experiences to gather feedback on instructional effectiveness.
4. **Teacher Self-Assessments and Surveys** – Reflecting on personal growth and confidence in integrating the standards through discourse in circle meeting time as well as via communication in email and messaging.
5. **Student Performance Data** – Analyzing improvements in student literacy and content understanding through formative and summative assessments.

How did your work impact teaching and learning? [Include student work samples, lesson plans, peer reviews, etc.]

Participation in the collegial circle had a meaningful impact on both teaching practices and student learning. Teachers became more intentional and confident in designing lessons that integrated the ELA standards with social studies content, leading to more cohesive and purposeful instruction. As a result, students engaged more deeply with historical topics while simultaneously developing essential literacy skills such as reading for evidence, analytical writing, and critical thinking. This interdisciplinary approach not only enriched classroom discussions but also improved students' ability to make connections across subjects, ultimately supporting higher levels of academic achievement.

Did your work align with the Level of Evaluation you identified in your proposal? Please explain.

Level 4 of Guskey's professional development evaluation model—"Participants' Use of New Knowledge and Skills"—aligns closely with the work of the collegial circle. Teachers actively applied what they learned by integrating ELA standards into their social studies instruction. This was evident through revised lesson plans, the implementation of interdisciplinary strategies, and observable changes in classroom practice. Their consistent use of these new approaches demonstrated that the professional learning translated into meaningful instructional improvements.

Please included any additional comments you would like to share with the Collegial Circle Committee. This may include unanticipated outcomes, next steps, new learning, etc.