



IMPACTFUL INSTRUCTION

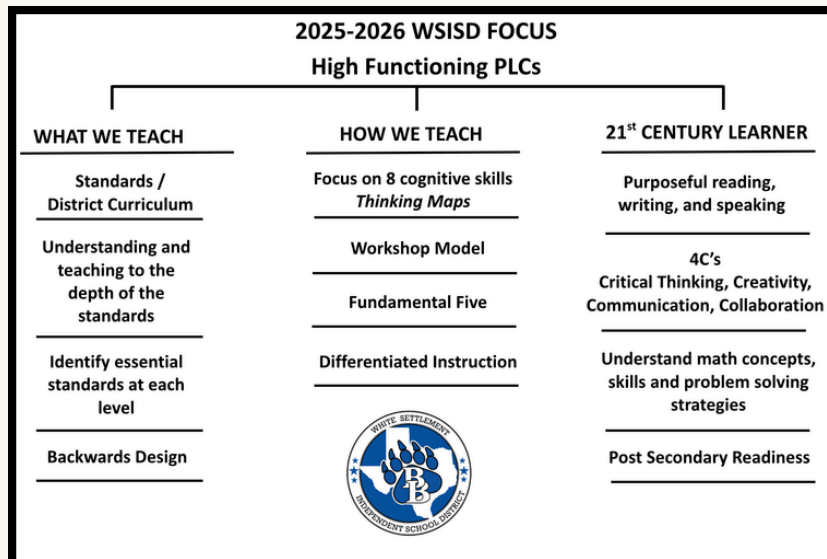
You did it! You're in the home stretch! We know this time of year can feel hectic with all of the to-dos, events and expectations. Being consistent with the routines you've worked so hard to build will help both you and your students. Even when things get busy, consistency is what students need most. And they deserve a passionate, all-in teacher every day ... until the last day of school.

With so much on our plates, it's easy to lose sight of what we know works best. Remembering our district focus will make the difference. It's a reminder of the practices we believe make the biggest impact. What we teach matters, but how we teach is where the magic really happens in your classroom.

Quick refresher:

- Workshop Model: Opening, Work Period and Closing
- Fundamental Five: Framing the Lesson, Power Zone, Small Group Purposeful Talk, Critical Writing, Recognize and Reinforce

As you wrap up the year, challenge yourself to keep those "how" pieces front and center in your daily lessons. It doesn't have to be perfect, just intentional. Those simple strategies are what keep students engaged and growing to the finish line.



DID YOU KNOW?

Students can lose 20 to 30 percent of what they've learned over the summer, so these last few weeks matter. Maintaining strong routines and keeping students engaged through the last days of school help them retain the growth they've made this year.

ENGAGEMENT VS. COMPLIANCE

Which of these students are truly engaged, and which ones are just going through the motions? This time of year, it's easy for students to mentally check out and simply do what's expected without really thinking. Our challenge is to help them re-engage. How can we design our lessons so students are actively thinking, participating, and retaining the learning, not just completing the task?



During Lessons

- Give wait time.
- Randomly call on students (popsicle sticks are great).
- Use turn and talk with preplanned questions.
- Utilize "look for" sheet/Pay attention to do list.
- Implement the Power Zone.



During PLC/Common Planning

- Discuss as a team how to make the lesson more engaging.
- Decide which questions are most beneficial for students to discuss.
- Determine which strategies will help students engage in the content.

REVIEW TIME

It's testing season! You've reinforced content throughout the year, and the final five days leading up to the big tests are a great time to be even more intentional with your review. Lead4ward compiled a playlist of instructional strategies to keep your review fresh and engaging for both you and your students. Check it out [here!](#)

Below is one strategy you can use as you kick off your review. It gets students up, talking, and building on each other's thinking, exactly the kind of engagement that helps learning stick.

TOUR OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Group students into teams of 3 to 4 and give each group a marker color.
2. Set up stations (7 to 8 around the room) with questions, visuals or key concepts.
3. Rotate and respond: Groups spend 3 to 4 minutes at each station discussing and adding their thinking; everyone contributes something.
4. Build on ideas as they rotate: Check what they agree with.
5. Question anything that doesn't seem right.
6. Add new ideas, connections or visuals.
7. Circulate and support as needed. This is a great time to listen in and clear up misconceptions.