



A systemic model: Improving student achievement through instruction

Menu of Interventions:

1. Engage participants with graduate level coursework focused on content and best practices.

Courses:

- Introduction to the Common Core
- Models of best practices for classroom instruction
- Teaching higher order thinking skills (math, science, English/LA as appropriate)
- Assessing higher order thinking skills (math, science, English/LA as appropriate)

Delivery Modes:

- Variety of locations including regional and local
- Venues including face-to-face, online, and blended
- Variety of schedules including summer and school year

2. Engage participants with sound curricular resources aligned with content and best practices.
 - Instructional materials—in particular, web-based curriculum and materials to customize learning opportunities for individual and group learner needs in core subject areas
3. Engage participants in a professional learning community which supports collaborative decision-making as well as modeling, coaching, and mentoring activities which embed and sustain best practices in classroom instruction of core subject areas.

Delivery Modes:

- Online, face-to-face, and blended, as appropriate

Need:

In response to South Dakota's adoption of the Common Core, there is a need to enhance classroom instruction and increase student learning which reflects best practices as defined by the Framework for Teaching, using Common Core standards.

Key Measures for Investing in Teachers training components:

1. Common Core and teacher standards training:

Educators' instructional practices and assessment practices reflect an increased emphasis on higher-order thinking as specified in the Common Core for math and English language arts.

2. Science academies:

Science teachers reflect an increased awareness of next generation science standards and their pending impact on teaching and learning. Focus on problem based learning.

3. School Counselor training:

Counseling services for learners reflect an increased emphasis on career development for South Dakota workforce needs.

4. Leadership training:

School leaders' supervision practices reflect increased understanding and support for a systemic model aligned with the Framework for Teaching using Common Core standards.

Foundation to Build Upon:

The Investing in Teachers initiative will build on current models of successful statewide projects demonstrating positive results for educators and learners. Included are such projects as SD Counts, SD Reads, SD Teacher-to-Teacher Support Network, Learning Power, SD's Mentoring and Coaching Institutes, Project Lead the Way, and the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

Results:

There is demonstrated evidence of improved instructional capacity and gains in student learning at schools across the state.