Graduate Programs Instructional Framework (2020-2021) Center for Science Teaching and Learning



Elements of Ambitious Science Teaching

provide a shared image of rigorous and equitable science instruction

ANCHOR LEARNING

Teachers anchor students' learning experiences in complex and puzzling science phenomena.

STUDENTS' IDEAS USED AS RESOURCES

Students' hypotheses, experiences, cultural knowledge, and questions are treated as resources to help the class build toward big science ideas.

TALKING IS THINKING

Teachers provide varied opportunities for students to reason through talk.

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN SCIENCE PRACTICES FOR A PURPOSE

Students use ensembles of scientific practices for testing ideas they believe are important to their developing explanations and models.

MAKING THINKING VISIBLE AND "WORK ON IDEAS" TOGETHER

Student thinking is made visible and subject to commentary by the classroom community.

SCAFFOLD TALK, WRITING, & PARTICIPATION

Students have access to specialized tools and routines that support their science writing, talk, and participation in activity.

COMPLEX UNDERSTANDINGS GET BUILT OVER TIME

Learning experiences are selected to help students build toward cumulative and nuanced understandings of big science ideas.

Instructional Design Strategies

occur before unit and lesson planning and enable effective instruction

- Identifying big ideas in science
- Selecting complex and puzzling science phenomena to anchor instruction
- Selecting and adapting appropriate tasks and technologies
- Planning for uncertainty in tasks
- Preparing for safe and meaningful engagement in science and engineering practices

Instructional Sequences

provide an overall structure to a unit of instruction

- Eliciting students' initial ideas
- Supporting on-going changes in thinking
- Pressing for evidence-based explanations

Instructional Activities

rehearsable activities that occur during a lesson and provide an overall structure to lessons

- Facilitating small and whole group discussions for a purpose *(eliciting, sense-making, etc.)*
- Facilitating effective openers and closures of lessons
- Monitoring, selecting, and sequencing small group work for a purpose
- Effectively launching a task
- Facilitating effective share-out sessions
- Enacting meaningful "just-in-time" instruction
- Enacting formative assessment tools to inform instruction

High-Leverage Practices and Strategies

occur moment-to-moment, are central to effective teaching, and provide a common language for talking about teaching

- Teaching toward a clear learning goal
- Representing student reasoning
- Constructing and organizing public records
- Eliciting and responding to student ideas
- Orienting students to one another and to the discipline
- Positioning students as sense-makers
- Making sense of students' participation to inform instruction
- Making connections explicit (big idea, phenomena, nature of science, etc.)
- Managing time and pacing

Strategies

(used across practices)

- Using <u>discourse moves</u> in whole class and small group settings (probing, pressing, revoicing, adding on, agree or disagree, putting an idea on hold, wait time)
- Using appropriate <u>questioning</u> (low/high cognitive demand)
- Using <u>participation structures</u> for a purpose (individual, small group, whole group, share-out, gallery walk, etc.)

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