

A close-up photograph of three small green seedlings growing in a row in a wooden tray. The seedlings are planted in dark brown soil. The tray is held by a hand with red nail polish. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

The Three Seeds of Instructional Excellence

Cultivating High Quality Instruction

Learning targets, student engagement, and effective assessment strategies are the primary focus for instructional improvement throughout this school year and will form the basis for classroom walkthrough feedback.



Learning Targets

Clear, student-friendly statements that articulate what students should know or be able to do by the end of a lesson or unit.



Student Engagement

Incorporating evidence-based principles of learning and teaching to create engaging and impactful lesson plans.



Assessment

Fostering a culture of ongoing reflection, assessment to, and refinement to enhance instructional practices

Through focus on the seeds of high quality instruction, teachers cultivate a classroom environment that nurtures student success and promotes instructional excellence.



Learning Targets



Learning Targets...



Learning targets are clear, student-friendly statements that articulate what students should know or be able to do by the end of a lesson or unit

Clarity and Focus

- Learning Targets guide instructional design
- When introduced and reviewed throughout the lesson students understand the expectation -
- Students know what they are responsible for learning and how they will show they have learned it.

Guidelines

- Should be shared at the beginning of each lesson - best practice is to review throughout the lesson
- Specific, measurable, and aligned with standards
- Should guide and align with the learning assessment and student feedback



Engagement



Engagement Strategies...



Student Engagement is CRITICAL

Engagement strategies are the magic of effective teaching and learning.

- Engaged students are academically successful, display positive behavior, and show more emotional stability in the school environment

Behavioral Engagement

- Active participation build into lessons
- Interactive activities
- Movement and physical activity

Emotional Engagement

- Positive relationship building
- Safe classroom environments
- Personalized Learning

Cognitive Engagement

- Challenge and mastery
- Self-regulation, autonomy, and choice
- Technology integration



Assessment



Assessment...



Assessment Necessities

- Ensure assessment aligns with the learning goal
- Use various assessment techniques
- Provide students with timely feedback
- Use assessment data to refine teaching strategies

Formative Assessment

- **Quick Checks:** Exit tickets, short quizzes
- **Classroom Interactions:** Discussions, observations
- **Peer and Self-Reviews:** Students assess their own or peers' work

Summative Assessment

- **Unit Tests and Exams:** Comprehensive evaluations at the end of instructional units
- **Final Projects:** Culminating assignments or presentations
- **Standardized Testing:** Formal assessments to gauge overall learning

Performance Based Assessment

- **Portfolios:** Collections of student work over time
- **Skill Demonstrations:** Practical applications of learned skills
- **Project-Based Outcomes:** Results from in-depth projects

2024-2025 Administrative Focus



Alignment of Curriculum and Instruction

Ensuring curriculum, lesson plans, and teaching methods are aligned to support the three seeds of instructional excellence.



Foster a Growth Mindset

Sargent will continue to embrace a growth mindset, where challenges are viewed as opportunities to learn and improve.



Provide Targeted Professional Development

Providing targeted professional development to help develop the knowledge and skills needed to implement targets, engagement, and assessment effectively



Utilize Data-Driven Decision Making

We will continue to use data from assessments, observations, and other sources to inform instructional decisions and continuously improve practice.

We are committed to growing back a culture of instructional excellence that supports the growth and success of both students and teachers.



High-quality instruction is crucial for student success. Sargent School District is committed to improving learning outcomes, engagement, and overall educational experiences.