



Core Connections

DePaul Center for Urban Education

Develop school capacity to use differentiation to assess and respond effectively to needs of all learners to meet high standards

Structure:

- Schools use a Core Curriculum Map to set priorities for each quarter. The four-quarter map is aligned with Common Core in Math and Literacy, including science and social studies literacy development. Quarterly week-to-week focuses linked to online assessment and instruction guides support implementation.
- Administrators coordinate professional development with the priorities for the core curriculum, differentiated instruction and assessment, and social-emotional development of students.
- Teachers focus on priorities, using informative assessments to identify learning needs and differentiated instruction to respond to those needs. The differentiated assessment strategies apply across all subjects, so while teachers may concentrate on one subject they can strengthen learning outcomes in all subjects. The use of graphic organizers is emphasis in instruction and assessment.
- Parents receive weekly updates on current priorities and ways to support student progress.

Strategies:

Teacher Collaboration to Build Capacity and Strengthen Implementation

- Connectors—teacher leaders/administrative instructional leaders
- In-school implementation support, including modeling and coaching, PD day workshops and after-school workshops

Teachers and administrators attend workshops and then:

- ✓ apply the strategies demonstrated in the workshop to create school “models”
- ✓ meet weekly with Connectors (may be combined with ILT meeting)
- ✓ share strategies with teachers through demonstrations, meetings, workshops
- ✓ prepare and submit a monthly report on that progress

Outcomes:

- Teachers work with increased information about what students need to learn
- Teachers use differentiated instruction to respond to identified needs—remedial through gifted
- Students work with increased focus and responsibility
- Parents get useful information about how to support their child's progress

*For information about the Connections opportunity for 2011-2012,
email principalnetwork@depaul.edu.*