



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS



Why Instructional Supports? Research tells us the quality of instruction has the biggest impact on learning. High-quality instructional interactions require supportive classroom environments, purposeful teaching, and instructional adjustments in response to ongoing assessments. SchoolWorks offers a variety of instructional supports, including instructional inventories, learning walks, and teacher development. All of these supports engage teachers as adult learners in addressing the real challenges and opportunities presented by their students.

The SchoolWorks Approach

SchoolWorks instructional supports are anchored in our research-based SchoolWorks Quality Criteria (SQC). Within the SQC, the quality of teaching is represented by the domains of Instruction and Educators' Opportunities to Learn. The instructional domain focuses on creating a supportive and focused learning climate, providing engaging instruction for all students, and adjusting instruction based on assessment. The domain that focuses on Educators' Opportunities to Learn emphasizes the quality of the adult culture in the building, as well as the extent to which teachers have access to, and participate in, collaborative supports to continuously improve instruction.

All SchoolWorks instructional supports respect that teachers are adult learners who benefit from a balance of reflective exercises and job-embedded collaboration. Our instructional

inventories and learning walks help school leaders and teachers reflect on instructional patterns in their schools to identify their strengths and areas for improvement toward meeting their vision for excellent instruction. Our teacher development opportunities are customized to be relevant to each school's instructional model and student population.

"The learning walks have sparked a new light on instruction and student engagement for the veteran teachers that have participated, and given the new teachers a model to guide them in their learning about pedagogy."

School Principal

Instructional Inventory. Trained and certified team members use the SchoolWorks Classroom Visit Instrument – a research-based tool – to observe

SchoolWorks Continuum of Services:

ASSESSING

BUILDING



classes and collect data on classroom practices to produce an instructional profile for the school. The profile is used to help school leaders and teachers reflect on instructional practices to inform their professional development efforts.

Learning Walks. Learning walks bring school leaders and teachers together to observe and discuss classroom instruction in a strategic and collaborative manner. SchoolWorks facilitators assist school leaders and teachers develop a focus of inquiry for the work, such as exploring the extent to which students articulate their thinking. With training and support, teachers visit classrooms to gather data related to the focus of inquiry. SchoolWorks facilitators then guide teacher teams through the critical process of debriefing what they have seen and heard. This results in a set of findings based on evidence – findings that guide the school in developing a vision for instructional practices whereby they identify needs for their own professional development.

Teacher Development. SchoolWorks customizes teacher professional development for schools, districts, and departments of education. For example, for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, SchoolWorks provides professional development across the state through regional assistance centers. Offerings include support for promoting classroom discourse, lesson study, looking at student work, and teaching for conceptual understanding, among other topics.

"SchoolWorks' commitment to instructional improvement has helped us build a deeper understanding of high-quality instruction that will help all of our schools and our students."

Superintendent Catherine Latham, Lynn Public Schools

HOW TO LEARN MORE

Explore our [Continuum of Services](#), [Project Case Studies](#), and [Results](#). Contact our office at 978.921.1674 or email info@schoolworks.org to learn more about how SchoolWorks can help build the capacity of your organization to have a positive impact on student achievement and well-being.