

Implementation: Interdisciplinary Instruction

What is Interdisciplinary Instruction?

Promising practices in the classroom lead to deeper learning and broad application. While interdisciplinary practices have been around for a very long time, defining our approach as transdisciplinary links our instruction and our student learning to 21st century goals. Many of our current practices are still relevant and appropriate with a deeper understanding of context, purpose, and outcomes. Consider our Guiding Principles which have been in rule for more than two decades.

- **Lifelong Learner.** How do you know whether someone is prepared to be a lifelong learner? Begin by making sure we each know how to ask questions and find answers. Link curiosity to investigation and make a plan.
- **Informed Thinker.** Information is abundant, readily available, and varies widely in quality. What we once called research now involves sorting, evaluating, and occasionally discarding.
- **Problem Solver.** We are no longer preparing our students to follow a single pathway. Technology changes our world rapidly. We must embrace instructional practices that encourage flexibility, develop new ways of looking at a problem to find a different way to do something, and constantly anticipates the unexpected.
- **Effective Communicator.** It is not enough to know something; we must also know how to communicate that knowledge so that others can and will be willing to understand. Our methods of communicating have evolved considerably and so must our instruction.
- **Responsible Citizen.** All of these practices develop responsible and engaged citizens who continue to explore our problems, think of new ways to solve them, and share those ideas to make the world a better place.
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Interdisciplinary Instruction weaves each of the disciplines together to create a strong connection to an evolving future.