

Introduction

Welcome to the video overview of the Tier I Classroom. My name is Kristi Santi, Professor of Special Populations at the University of Houston. I am a team member of the UH AIIPaT Model Demonstration Project and want to take a moment to give a shout-out to the other team members. The goal of this session is to emphasize the importance of integrating reading instruction across all subjects to enhance students' literacy, comprehension, and critical thinking skills, ensuring their academic success and equity in education.

Concept: Every Teacher is a Reading Teacher

The idea that "every teacher teaches reading" highlights the importance of literacy across all subject areas. Regardless of the discipline, be it mathematics, science, social studies, music, or art, teachers play a crucial role in developing students' reading skills specific to their content area. Each subject has its own unique texts and literacy demands, and students must learn to navigate these to access and understand the knowledge within.

Mathematics: In math, reading involves understanding word problems, following complex instructions, and interpreting mathematical symbols and language. Teachers help students develop these skills by breaking down problems, teaching key vocabulary, and modeling how to approach and solve equations.

Science: Science teachers guide students in reading and understanding scientific texts, which often include technical terminology, data interpretation, and procedural descriptions. They teach students how to read scientific papers, extract essential information, and comprehend diagrams and charts.

Social Studies: Social studies involves interpreting historical documents, maps, and various forms of text that provide context and details about different cultures and time periods. Teachers help students analyze primary and secondary sources, understand cause-

and-effect relationships, and develop critical thinking skills to evaluate different perspectives.

Music: In music, reading extends to understanding sheet music, musical notations, and terminology. Music teachers guide students in interpreting these symbols, following musical scores, and comprehending written instructions about playing instruments or vocal techniques.

Art: Art education includes reading about art history, techniques, and critiques. Art teachers help students understand descriptive texts about art movements, biographies of artists, and the instructions for various art projects. They also teach students to interpret visual literacy, such as analyzing the composition and meaning of artworks.

By integrating reading instruction into all subject areas, teachers help students develop a more comprehensive set of literacy skills. This not only improves their ability to access and engage with the content in each discipline but also enhances their overall academic success and lifelong learning capabilities. Each teacher, therefore, becomes instrumental in building a student's ability to read, comprehend, and apply knowledge across all areas of study.

Implications for Educators

When teachers adopt the mindset that "every teacher teaches reading," the implications for both educators and students are profound. For educators, this approach necessitates integrating literacy instruction into their content area, requiring collaboration and professional development to master strategies for teaching reading skills within their specific subjects. This mindset fosters a more cohesive and interdisciplinary teaching environment, where educators support one another in enhancing students' overall literacy. For students, this holistic approach to reading instruction means they receive consistent support in developing their reading skills across all subjects, not just in English language arts or reading. This consistency helps them better understand and engage with the content, improving their comprehension, critical thinking, and ability to apply knowledge in various contexts. Ultimately, this strategy promotes equity in education, ensuring all students receive the necessary support to succeed academically across all disciplines.

Closing

The concept that "every teacher teaches reading" emphasizes the importance of literacy in all subjects, including mathematics, science, social studies, music, and art. Teachers integrate reading skills specific to their content areas, helping students understand and engage with diverse texts. This approach improves students' overall literacy, comprehension, and critical thinking. For educators, it requires collaboration and professional development to effectively incorporate literacy instruction into their teaching. This comprehensive strategy ensures all students are well-supported and equipped for academic success across all disciplines.

References

- Brown, P.C., Roediger III, H.L., & McDaniel, M.A. (2014). *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*. London, England: Harvard University Press. ISBN: 0674729013.
- Bryk, A.S., Gomez, L.M., Grunow, A., & LeMathieu, P.G. (2015). *Learning to Improve: How America's Schools Can Get Better at Getting Better*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press. ISBN: 1612507913
- Dehaene, S. (2010). *Reading in the Brain: The New Science of How We Read*. Penguin Book. ISBN: 978-014-311805-3.
- Johnson, D.D. & Johnson, B. (2011). *Words: The Foundation of Literacy*. Routledge. ISBN: 0813344158.
- Lent, R.C. (2015). *This Is Disciplinary Literacy: Reading, Writing, Thinking, and Doing . . . Content Area by Content Area*. Sage Publication. ISBN 978-1506306698.
- Urquhart, V., & Frazee, D. (2012). *Teaching Reading in the Content Areas: If Not Me, Then Who?* (3rd Ed.). ASCD, ISBN 978-1416614210.