



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: District Instructional Focus

PRESENTER: Amber Crissey, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction; Leslee Barnes, Social Studies Coordinator; Cathy Williams, Instructional Specialist

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The district instructional data dashboard provides the district with a systematic process for gathering multiple data points to track implementation levels of the district instructional focus areas and to monitor student progress data throughout the school year.
- The Curriculum & Instruction Department will provide the Board with a Social Studies teaching and learning update.
 - In previous years, the Social Studies Department has had a focus on sharpening student skills in reading and writing. Great gains have been made in these areas and reading and writing continues to be a significant focus area in the Social Studies Department.
 - During the 2023-2024 school year, the Social Studies Department has been focused on a continuation of building reading proficiency with a strong emphasis on building both content vocabulary and also academic vocabulary. Additionally, there has been a focus on building spatial awareness through growing students' knowledge and skills gained from geographic studies.
 - Social Studies classes across the district engage in explicit practice of building support in reading primary and secondary sources, answering questions with a claim, and supporting that claim with evidence. Evidence-based writing has become an intentional and regular practice in our classrooms.
 - Aligning writing expectations for RLA in grades 4 and 5, with social studies content knowledge and writing processes has reinforced the RLA program as well as cross curricular contentions.
 - Building support for all teachers of K-5 social studies in teaching the geography of places, as well as human-environment interactions has been an area of focus. Grades 6-12 also has a

geography focused around the geopolitical interactions around the world, as well as change over time.

- Understanding what it means to be an American citizen who has rights and responsibility in our democracy, is an intentional focus area that all AISD social studies educators are continuously committed to.
- Supporting students with personal financial literacy has been an increased focus this school year for students advancing in high school.
- The state's shift to cross-disciplinary reading passages on state assessments, particularly in social studies and science, has reinforced the need to continue focusing on contents that bring relevance to courses such as math and ELAR.

FISCAL INFORMATION:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Instructional Focus Presentation

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

None