

Systematic ELD professional development: Constructing Meaning & Focused Approach in Morrow County School District:

MCS D has utilized SIOP and Systematic ELD strategies over the past seven school years. An area of growth for our school district has been in our understanding of the strategies and practices at an administrative level and having more structured training available to our secondary teachers.

The goal of implementing this program with fidelity is to ensure the academic achievement of English learners and students that need more support with explicit language instruction in every class on the north side of Morrow County K-6 as well as in our secondary ELA, Science, Social Studies:

Our district ELL plan is focused on increasing the academic achievement of English learners. Systematic English Language Development Instruction (SELD) is a coherent approach for developing proficiency in English. This must include attention to language support for content instruction (such as frontloading language along with sheltered instruction) and a plan for providing instruction in English as its own subject of study.

The Focused Approach to Systematic ELD Instruction involves training for 2 days, a handbook for K-6 teachers is provided and utilized during the training. It offers a detailed framework for designing an ELD program that teaches and practices the vocabulary and grammatical forms of English for a wide range of purposes at each level of proficiency.

Constructing Meaning also involves training teachers for two days with a handbook for 7-12 teachers. It is a program that provides teachers with the process and tools for weaving explicit language instruction into content area teaching. Lesson planning is driven by the content and academic language demands of discipline-to meet specific learning needs. Constructing meaning is based on backward design model of curriculum planning and a gradual release of responsibility model. Constructing Meaning process prompts teachers to:

The work of the Common Core and other content standards assume native English proficiency. Constructing Meaning offers an accelerated approach to instruction that emphasizes both academic English and critical literacy skills, thereby supporting English learners in acquiring the analytical language necessary to meet the demands of the Common Core. As students move through their academic careers, they must continually build their content knowledge and academic language foundation to be prepared to meet the increasing demands of each grade level.

Critical research-based features of Systematic ELD instruction

- Promotes learning goals that include both **content and language objectives**.
- Uses a **functional language approach** organized around the critical tasks and text structures needed to engage in rigorous, grade-appropriate, content-area coursework. Focuses on high-leverage academic language that is applicable across content areas.
- Provides an organized method of content and language instruction that divides a lesson or unit into **discrete, measurable skills, tasks, or objectives and prepares students for successful completion** of a larger, more complex outcome or expectation.
- Is **explicitly taught and emphasizes oral and written language skills** to ensure that students develop the analytical language and processes necessary for college-ready work.