Vicksburg Community Schools
Dishon / Wilson O'Leary Model of Cooperative Learning Syllabus
Pat Wilson O'Leary and Mary Burke

Domain #1- **Planning and Preparation**

For significant student learning, teachers can:

- Identify the critical attributes of Cooperative Learning and how it differs from group work.
- Identify when and how it is appropriate to use Cooperative Learning in their lesson plans and implement it effectively.
- Identify and explain how Cooperative Learning impacts learning and connects to research on student learning.
- Identify what type of room arrangement, procedures, and routines will be the best fit for each Cooperative Learning activity.
- Identify the 10 teacher decisions that are critical to the success of D/WO Cooperative Learning and plan lessons to reflect model.
- Plan to implement the complexity of C.L. in simple, incremental stages, per model.

Domain #2- **Classroom Environment**

To insure a safe and thoughtful environment, teachers can:

- Identify social skills that are critical to effective classroom use of Cooperative Learning.
- Identify the ways to build a collaborative environment in their classroom and then create a plan to implement same.
- Identify routines, procedures, and room arrangements that are conducive to Cooperative Learning and teach same.
- Identify and teach the behaviors that promote collaboration and interdependent thinking.

Domain #4- **Professional Responsibilities**

For their own professional growth teachers can:

- Explain the differences between group work and the Dishon/ Wilson O'Leary model of Cooperative Learning and when to use it consistently & effectively.
- Communicate to parents the reasons for using and the applications of Cooperative Learning in their classroom.
- Reflect on their use of Cooperative Learning and how it influenced their teaching and their students learning.
- Judge own teaching behaviors and adjust according to match model, student data, and student independence in groups.
- Connect use of this C.L. model to district models of instruction (Marzano) and teacher effectiveness (Danielson).
- Assess implementation of course content in two classroom observations.

Domain #3- **Instruction**

In their student centered classrooms, teachers can:

- Design and implement lesson plans and instructions that effectively demonstrate the use of Cooperative Learning strategies.
- Teach the routines, procedures, & behaviors that increase the effectiveness of C.L.
- Teach social skills and the processing of social skills that relate to their students' needs.
- Assess social skills of individuals and groups using Cooperative Learning.
- Teach students how to assess their group's use of CL social skills and improve with practice.
- Implement the 10 Teacher Decisions that are critical to D/ WO Cooperative Learning success.