

Why Consider Instructional Frameworks?



"Hey, have you heard about an Instructional Framework?"

"I heard that it is a tool teachers can use to reflect, set goals, and plan next steps for growth toward a shared district vision of effective instruction."

"Why would teachers embrace the district using an Instructional Framework?"

"I like that the framework describes effective teaching practice that respects how teachers pursue the art and science of teaching as they develop and grow throughout their career."

"How would principals use the framework?" "My principal said the framework is used to provide teachers with actionable feedback for professional growth."

"What about students? How would they benefit?" "The framework ensures consistency of effective practices among all teachers, preschool through high school. The framework delineates the practices teachers need to engage, motivate and meet the diverse needs of students to empower them as learners." This [document](#) provides a list of benefits for students, teachers, and principals.

"How did Instructional Frameworks come up for Iowa Educators?" "Well, some districts started using a framework as the foundation for their Teacher Leadership plan and others started to use one as part of their coaching support for teachers. In 2016, The [Iowa Council on Educator Development](#) (CED) also recommended that districts use progressions (a framework) of practice with a focus on growth to impact student learning."

"So are districts required to use a framework?" "No, the CED recommended using a framework as a best practice. The Council also received guidance from Linda Darling-Hammond, author of "[Creating a Comprehensive System for Evaluating and Supporting Effective Teaching](#)." She indicates that teacher evaluation should be based on professional teaching standards and should be sophisticated enough to assess teaching quality across the continuum of development from novice to expert teacher."

"What support is available to our district if we want to learn more about Instructional Frameworks?" This [document](#) has information about professional organizations that have authored frameworks. PLAEA staff can share ideas and resources for districts to consider when learning about frameworks, selecting a framework, and implementing a framework. Support can be customized based on the needs of the district.

Who is the PLAEA contact? The district School Improvement Facilitator.