



Introduce Learning-Focused Schools Model and Learning-Focused Connecting Strategies * Planning Learning Units Workshop (see next two slides)

Learning-Focused Schools is a continuous improvement model designed to assist systems, schools and teachers in using exemplary practices to increase learning and achievement.

A Planning Model that provides frameworks and tools for organizing, planning, assessing and designing instruction. Use the analogy of the tool kit and the kitchen drawer. Learning-Focused provides a 'tool-kit' to organize the strategies in their "bag of tricks" that every teacher has. In addition will provide some new strategies as well.

Focus on Learning-Focused Connecting Strategies for Instruction:

The Learning-Focused notebook is a resource book for designing and implementing exemplary practices in K-12 classrooms. It is the resource for the Learning-Focused Workshop for teachers.

The training provides a framework for thinking about, planning, and delivering instruction using exemplary practices with a focus on learning.



It is not...

LYNT

TYNT

NYNT

Ask participants what this is. Assure them that you know they know and will demonstrate that they do know by reading chorally with you after you read the first “word”: “Last Year’s New Thing”. Participants will quickly join in with “This Year’s New Thing” and “Next Year’s New Thing”.

We are not here for This Year’s New Thing—we’re here to connect all of the good things that we’ve been doing.



It is...

**A framework to connect all of the
good things that we've been doing!**



The Learning-Focused Balanced Achievement Model. Point out that we are starting with Learning-Focused Instruction. You may want to do a quick run-through of the other solutions that are next steps and/or support for what the school/district will be doing.



The Learning-Focused Schools Model is...

A Continuous School Improvement Model designed to assist you with using exemplary practices to increase learning and achievement.

A Planning Model that provides frameworks and tools for organizing, planning, assessing and designing instruction.

Use to describe the model. Point out that this 4-day workshop focuses on instruction.



Why Learning-Focused?

It is the practices proven successful in highly impacted exemplary schools where 90+% of ALL students are performing at or above grade level.



Learning-Focused schools is a planning model based on what works. It is based on exemplary practices in schools that have at least 90% free/reduced lunch and 90% are performing at or above grade level. In school evaluations we have found out what schools that are being successful with ALL students are doing to get where they are. You are going to be seeing a framework for designing lessons and units incorporating these exemplary practices.

It's being done in places with a lot more barriers than we have ---if they can do it...we can!



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The Learning-Focused Paradigm:

WHETHER students learn something well is more important than **WHEN** they learn it.

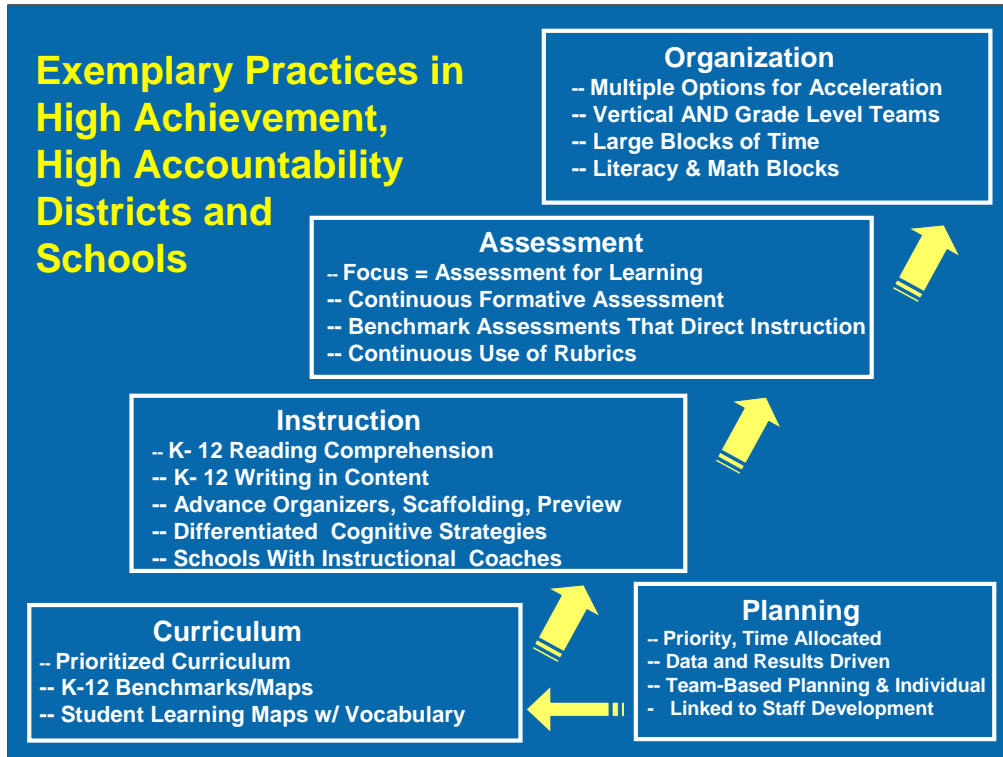
Typical School Paradigm:

WHEN students learn something is more important than **WHETHER** they learn it well.

Talk about paradigm

They may need a scaffold in September to be successful, but if they can meet the standard (curriculum) by December – does it matter?

Right now, if you cannot do it all by unit test – you are in trouble and never do learn it well enough to do successfully. Then you repeat that process the next year – students get further and further behind.



When the Education Consortium evaluated the 1400 schools each year- here are the five components they evaluated.

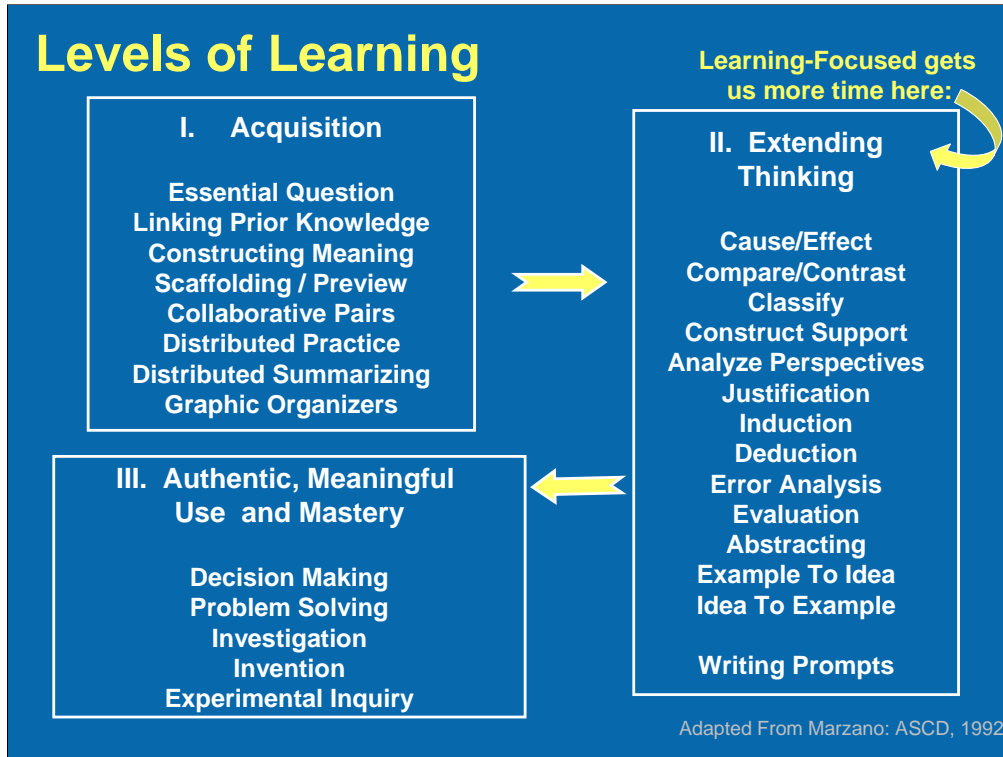
Here are the major exemplary practices they noted.

Give 1-2 examples from each box. Try not to be overly specific, just give a nice broad overview.

The workshop focuses primarily on the Instruction Box, with a small amount of time for Rubrics from the Assessment Box. There are other workshops that speak more specifically to the other boxes and strategies.

Make a few points about planning -

Planning is the biggest difference in exemplary schools. Learning-Focused is a PLANNING MODEL and we do not apologize for that. It takes TIME to plan quality instruction! Schools work to find time for teachers to plan together – note team-based planning and individual.



Here is how we describe learning.

Learners do not suddenly learn skills and concepts. They progress through levels of learning with each level taking the learner to more depths of understanding and the capabilities to apply those skills and concepts in their lives. The chart illustrates three levels of learning: Acquisition (new knowledge), Extending Thinking (doing something with the new knowledge), and Authentic Use (using the knowledge in meaningful ways).

Using Dimensions of Learning as the basis for understanding learning, we use 3 levels of learning in this adapted model.

If these are the levels of learning, then how do we make sure that all learners pass through the levels? This provides the Learning-Focused model for lessons and units.

From a combination of cognitive psychology research and brain research, we know that acquisition is 70% short term memory. That means that if we learned 10 things today, 20 days from now the entire group on average would remember about 2-3. We would have an approximate drop in memory of 7.

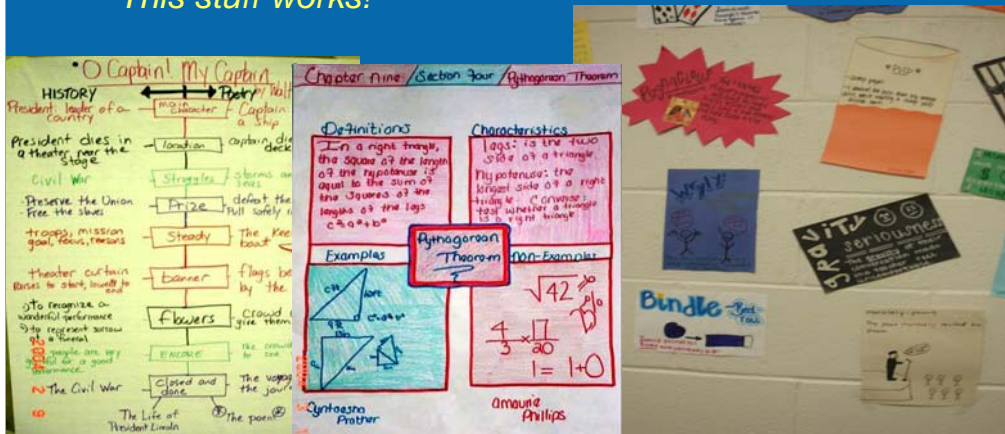
We have to go deeper with student learning, especially on the most important concepts and skills.



Why Learning-Focused?

1. Integrated current educational research and strategies.
2. Driven by our state standards.

This stuff works!



We also know what works from the enormous amount of school research over the last 30 years. Learning-Focused connects the data coming out of this school research. Again, it's about connections. We're already using many of these strategies.



What is Learning-Focused?

Framework for thinking about, planning, and delivering instruction using exemplary practices with a focus on learning

Goals:

- **Continuous Improvement**
- **Consistent and Pervasive**

Remind participants of the framework or tool kit.

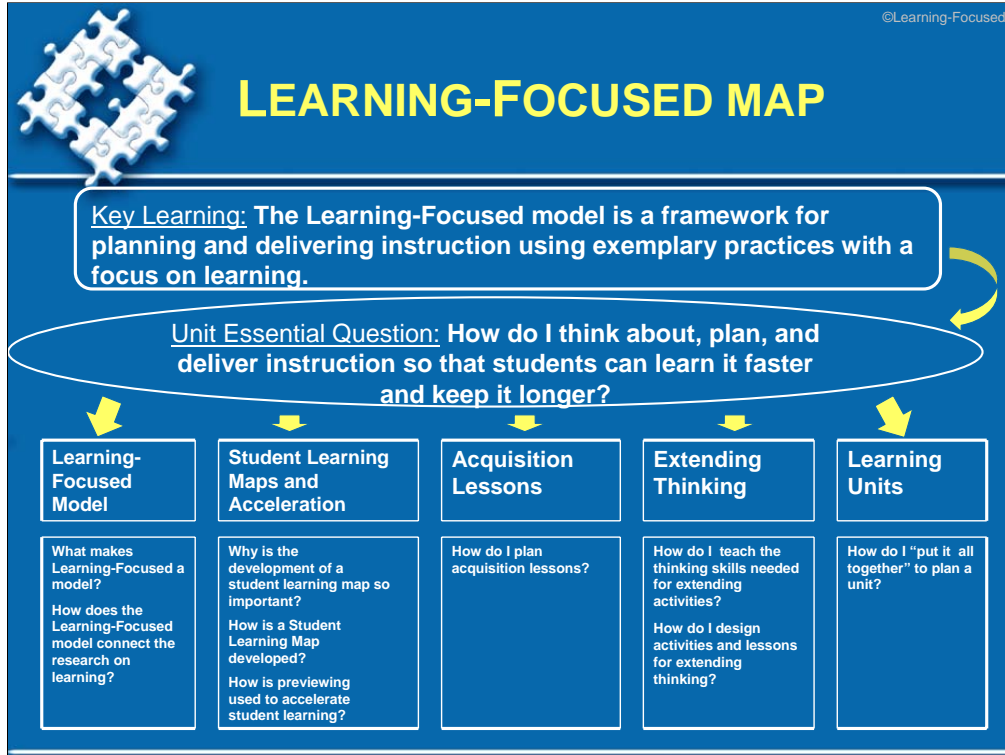
Point out that it is a planning model.

Talk about the two goals.

Continuous Improvement – you are not expected to do everything at once, but get started – try a few things, get them working well, add more. WE don't arrive- there is always new knowledge about what works, it is about continuous improvement.

Consistent – it is not using a practice once a month. If a practice works when students are introduced to new material, the teacher uses it EVERY time an acquisition lesson for new information is taught (give example - use organizer every time to lift out key ideas or students summarize key learning at the end of the lesson every time) – consistent use.

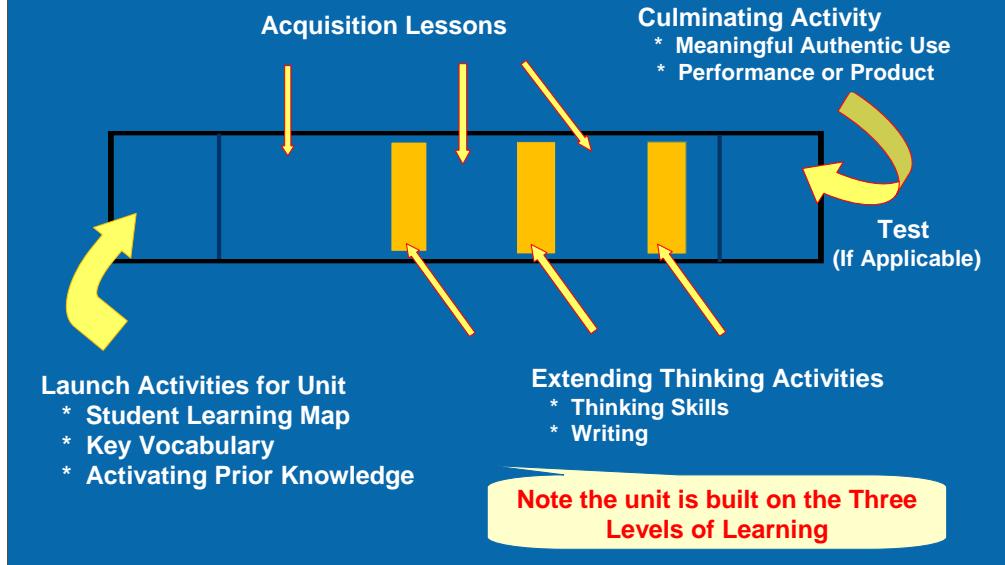
Pervasive – “you will not move a school – raise achievement for a school – on the backs of a few stars. It takes all the teachers in the school; it takes collaboration. Exemplary practices are pervasive- throughout the school.”



Explain that this is the content map of the Learning-Focused workshop. Call attention to the overall essential question and the major topics to be addressed.

Have participants talk with a partner: What terms are familiar/part of your existing toolbox? Which ones are new?

Learning-Focused Unit Components



Point out what a unit is and that the unit is built around the levels of learning. (just a quick overview)



How Will This Affect My Classroom?

- Continue to Plan
- Plan Collaboratively
- Create Learning Units and Lessons
- A More Equitable Distribution of the Workload in Class
- Have Students Write More
- Have Students work with a Partner (more)



How Will This Affect My Classroom?

- **Administrators conduct Walkthroughs**
 - Support, not evaluate
- **Attend and Participate in Reflection Meetings**



Project Implementation

What are the expectations
after the workshop?

What are the implementation expectations after the workshop?



Learning-Focused Implementation

1. At first designate 1 subject/course in which you will plan and use learning strategies from this workshop.

Every few months start planning/using Learning-Focused in an additional subject/course.

Go over implementation expectations.

Point out that you do not try to do several new things at once BUT you start with a few in one subject or class and then after that's working, add more.

At end of session, you will review the assignment again - will talk about where to get started.



Learning-Focused Implementation

2. For weeks One - Five, consistently use all of the following strategies:

- Lesson Essential Questions that students answer at the end of the lesson.
- Preview organizer and key vocabulary at the beginning of a lesson.
- Distribute summarizing with numbered heads.
- Distribute guided practice.
- Graphic Organizers.



Learning-Focused Implementation

3. For weeks Six - Ten, add the following strategies to your lessons:

- **Activating strategies**
- **Summarizing strategies**



Learning-Focused Implementation

4. After the Day Four training, continue doing 1 - 3 and add:
 - Extending Thinking activities
 - Systematic Monthly Review



Learning-Focused Implementation

- 5. After all four days of Learning-Focused, begin developing Learning Units that connect your lessons.**



Learning-Focused Implementation

6. Plan and use acquisition lessons and for the most important state standards include extending thinking activities and a culminating project or product.



Learning-Focused Implementation

- 7. Once every 2 - 3 weeks meet with an administrator for a Reflection Meeting using the Teachers' Reflection Log in the Learning-Focused notebook.**



Learning-Focused Implementation

8. Once a month meet with an administrator during planning time and review a Learning-Focused lesson you are getting ready to teach.



Keys To Successful Exemplary Practice

Adapt, Don't Adopt

- Thoughtful Implementation
- Focus On Quality ... Not Just Doing It
- Always Keep The Purpose Of A Strategy/Plan/Activity In Mind
- How Does Each Component Connect?



Keys To Successful Exemplary Practice

Consistent and Pervasive

- All the Time
- Everybody

The Learning-Focused framework provides us with the means to be consistent and pervasive.

This is why it works!



Keys To Successful Exemplary Practice

Accountability

- Focused
- Based on Data/Observations
- Quality ... Quality ... Quality



Support

- Trainer during training
- Trainer available for conferencing days and walkthroughs
- Email with Trainer
- The Learning-Focused Notebook!
- Learning-Focused Flipcharts
- Group Reflection Meetings
- Reflection Meetings with Leadership
- www.LearningFocused.com

They aren't in this alone. Many things are being put into place to support the teachers implement Learning-Focused consistently and pervasively. Let them know administrators are required to participate in the workshops as well. This gives more credibility and lets them know that the administration will KNOW what the teachers are doing and supposed to be doing.



Your Ticket Out The Door:

What questions do you have as we begin this initiative?

Write down your questions
(Include your email address)

Let them know that you will be responding to their questions. If a person doesn't have a question, let them know that they can write down what they are looking forward to by implementing Learning-Focused.



Thank you!

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