

WHAT IS AN INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK?

An Instructional Framework for teaching defines and describes research-based aspects of a teacher's responsibilities that promote measurable improvements in student learning. The OCS Framework for Instruction conveys to all stakeholders what OCS values, how it defines effective teaching, and what teachers should know and be able to do in the following domains:

- planning
- instruction
- assessment
- culture

WHY DO WE NEED AN INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK?

The purpose of an instructional framework:

- **Establishes expected professional practices**
Teaching is a complex activity—both an art and a science. A framework which establishes expected professional practices ensures that all teachers, those new to the profession or district as well as those who are experienced, have a clear picture of the district's vision of excellence in teaching. The OCS Instructional Framework outlines the teacher's responsibilities and the specific evidences of those responsibilities that constitute effective teaching.
- **Ensures greater consistency in teaching across the district**
Equity in educational opportunity is paramount to student success. A well-articulated common instructional framework ensures greater consistency in instruction from school-to-school within the district and from grade-to-grade within each school. The OCS Instructional Framework depicts specifically what should take place in every school and each classroom in the district.
- **Provides a guide for improving teaching practices**
To be effective at their practice, teachers must be reflective practitioners. An instructional framework builds a common language and shared meanings among teachers, administrators, and instructional support team members regarding expected effective practices. The OCS Instructional Framework provides the context for discussions that highlight aspects of teaching that are going well and area(s) which need improvement.

SUMMARY

The **Onslow County Schools Instructional Framework** is a blueprint for consistently planning and using research-based teaching practices to ensure student achievement. It clearly defines what all teachers are to know and be able to do within their respective areas of teaching, ensuring equity in learning opportunities among our schools. The document also provides a tool for building common language and shared meanings across the district related to the teaching and learning process. It is designed to guide new teachers toward excellence in teaching and to support accomplished teachers in continuing to grow within the profession. In essence, it is the infrastructure critical to supporting **Excellence in Education** for all students in Onslow County Schools.

BACKGROUND

The need for a common instructional framework in OCS was identified through an analysis of district data, a review of the professional development needs assessment, classroom observations, and input from district educators. During the 2017-18 school year, a project team of teachers, coaches, parents, and administrators collaborated to create an initial draft of the OCS Instructional Framework. The draft was shared with numerous focus groups and revised based on the feedback received. After months of work, the OCS Instructional Framework will be launched in August 2018. The Framework illustrates what should occur in every school, in every classroom, for every student, every day.