

Pre K-12 Vertical Teaming

Federal Title IIA High-Quality
Professional Development Funds Are
Used for All Vertical Team
Expenditures

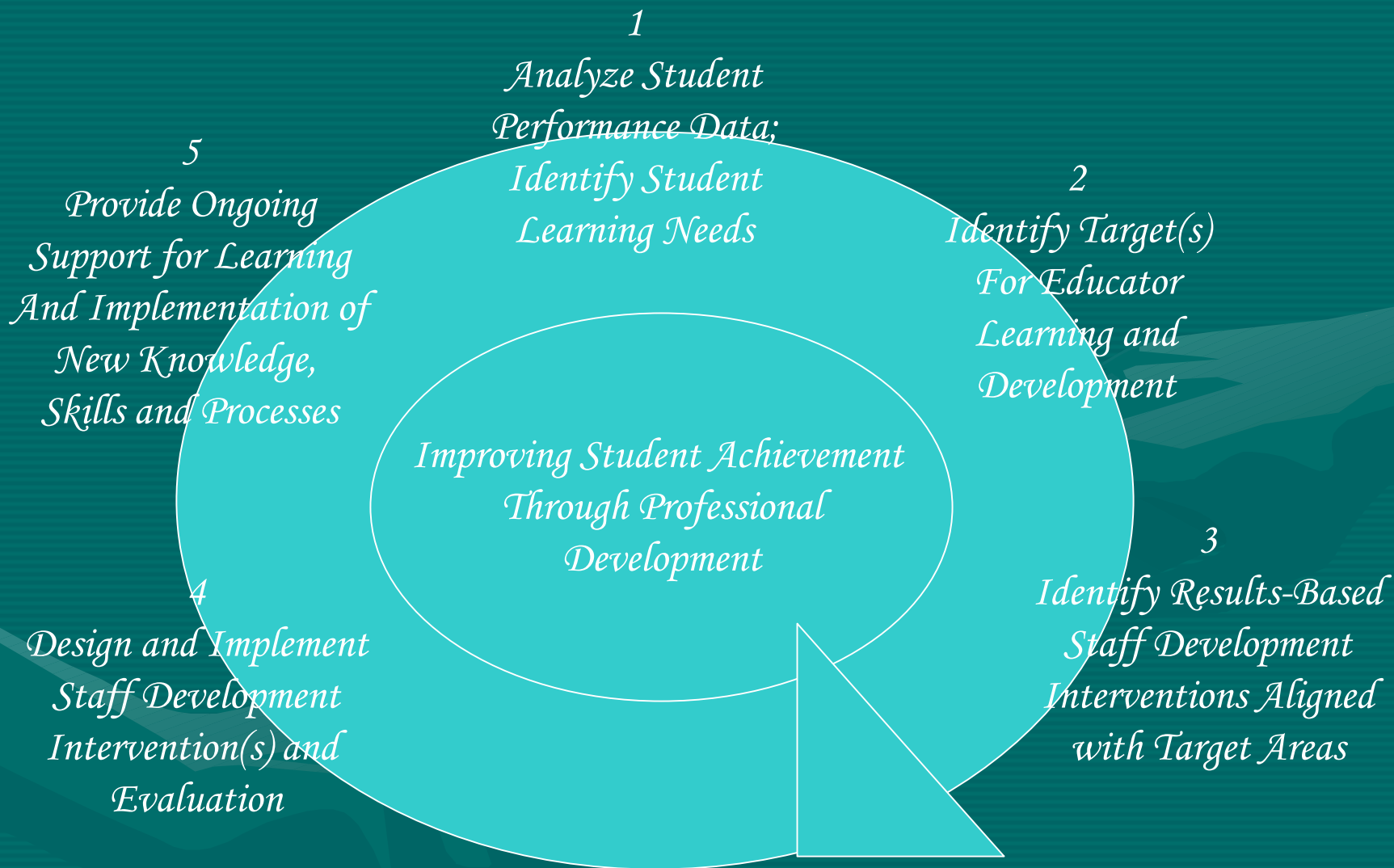
TITLE II, PART A

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

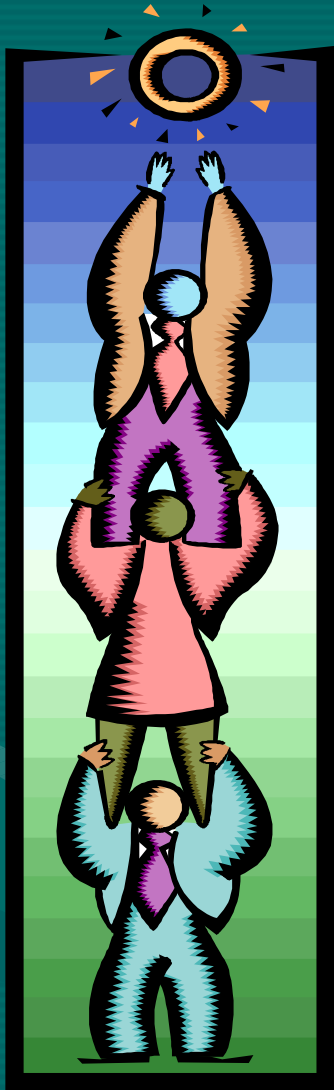
- Integral part of broad school-wide and district-wide educational improvement
- Sustained, intensive and classroom-focused professional development
- Developed with extensive participation of teachers, principals and administrators

Professional Development

- Vertical teaming involves teachers in professional development processes through:
 - Monthly meetings whereby vertical team administrators, curriculum, support staff and teacher facilitators work to:
 - Map Standards
 - Align Curriculum
 - Apply Data Driven Decision Making to Instructional Practices
 - Identify Research-Based Best Teaching Strategies
 - Identify Appropriate Resources
 - Support Teacher Implementation
 - Dissemination of vertical team information to all teachers in the district.



What is a Vertical Team?



A vertical team is a group of educators from different grade levels in a given discipline who work cooperatively to develop and implement a vertically aligned program.

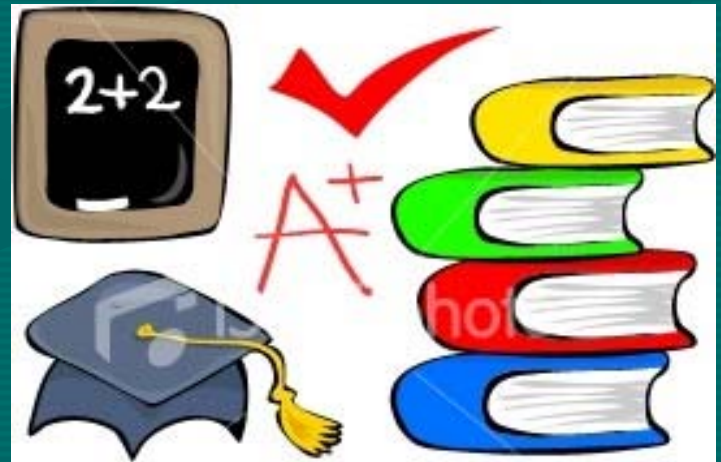
This program is anchored in the skills, knowledge and concepts needed to engage all students in a higher level of learning.

The goal is to increase the quality of teaching and learning in a particular subject at all grade levels.

GOAL of VERTICAL TEAMING

To increase the instructional

- Quality
 - Rigor
 - Challenge
- for all students



UNDERLYING PREMISE #1

ALL STUDENTS CAN ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- With early and consistent introduction to essential academic
 - Skills
 - Knowledge
 - Concepts
 - Vocabulary specific to content areas
- By continually challenging students to expand their knowledge to the next level

UNDERLYING PREMISE #2

- The K-12 vertical alignment of the sequential development of the needed knowledge, skills, principles and concepts occurs within a model of faculty communication.

VERTICAL TEAM PROCESS

- Encourages communication and curriculum articulation between all Pre K-12 teachers to:
 - Reduce content repetition
 - Implement best practice instructional strategies
 - Encourage students to apply past instruction to new and more challenging material
 - Provide opportunities whereby teachers differentiate instruction and curriculum for all students

VERTICAL TEAM PROCESS

- Creates a systems view of curriculum, instruction and assessment and promotes systems thinking
- Establishes a seamless education from Pre K through high school grades
- Engages all students in high-level learning
- Creates 'Habits of Mind' in students that promote self-efficacy

HABITS OF MIND

- RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND

Cause and Effect

Multiple Causation

Trends, Themes and Interactions

Change and Continuity

VERTICAL TEAM BENEFITS

- Encourages and supports students from poverty and students of color to take challenging level courses
- Provides all students, including low achieving and special needs students, the support needed to achieve
- Increases college participation and graduation rates for more students

DISTRICT BENEFITS

Vertical Teaming acts as a
positive marketing strategy
to attract students to our district
and
to retain students in our district.

VT Support Statements

- “Rigor is the goal of helping students develop the capacity to understand content that is complex, ambiguous, provocative and personally or emotionally challenging.”

Silver and Perini, ASCD

- “Rigorous curriculum is a greater factor in determining college graduation rates than class standing, standardized test scores or grade point average.”

Clifford Adelman, Senior Research Analyst, US Dept. of Ed.

6-12 VERTICAL TEAM HISTORY

2004-2005

- Half-day on September 1
- Late Starts on 12/15, 1/3, 1/13 and 4/6
- Grade 6 Sept. LA, Math and Social Studies meetings

2005-2006

- Half-days on August 1, November 28 and January 17
- Grade 6 September after-school 2-hour meeting

2006-2007

- Half-days on August 30 and November 27

2007 -2008

- Monthly Vertical Team Meetings

Pre K-12 Vertical Team Direction for 2007-2008

- Expand Grades 6-12 Vertical Teaming to Pre K-12
- Identify and increase % of underrepresented students who enroll and succeed in one or more challenging courses in grades 10-12
- Provide communication to parents of underrepresented groups with information relative to the importance of their children taking challenging courses

NATIONALLY, OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, IN AP:

- # of low-income students in AP has quadrupled
- # of Latino students in AP has quadrupled
- # of African American students in AP has more than tripled
- # of Native American students in AP has more than doubled
- Scores of 3 or higher have increased by:
 - 192% in African American, 233% in Latino and 128% among Native American students

Vertical Teaming brings the principles of educational excellence and equity to life by providing students opportunities to develop patterns of thought necessary to succeed.