



Project Success Enrichment

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Content

- writing process
- literature study
- critical and creative thinking skills
- reading strategies
- linking integrated language arts with visual arts
- instructional strategies

Project Success Enrichment is designed to enrich students' language arts and visual arts literacy as well as their creative, critical, social, and self-management skills. The interdisciplinary program focuses on a process approach to writing to integrate literature, higher-order thinking skills, the multiple intelligences, and other disciplines.

Through the staff development component of the program, teachers learn to incorporate cooperative learning, hands-on activities, problem solving, demonstrations, questioning strategies, and critical and creative thinking processes into the classroom. Teachers are helped to accommodate a variety of learning styles and the needs of various levels of learners by adjusting curriculum and student projects to address differences among their students.

A strong staff development program supports both the implementation of the program and change in teacher instructional practices. Teachers acquire knowledge and skills to: integrate questions; enhance students' creativity and critical thinking skills; integrate writing and thinking in a structured, organized way; and connect writing and thinking to reading, literature, the visual arts (drawing, painting, claywork), and other disciplines. Project Success Enrichment can replace or enhance the regular language arts curriculum. It was recognized by the National Diffusion Network in 1983 and 1989 and revalidated in 1996.

Context

- varied school sites including rural, urban, suburban, and Native American schools
- diverse student populations including:
 - ESL
 - LEP
 - Title I
 - special needs
 - gifted
 - regular education

PROGRAM CONTEXT

Project Success Enrichment is currently implemented in 2,500 schools in 40 states. The program was originally developed for gifted and talented students but now meets the needs of all students including regular education, Title I, at-risk, special needs, Limited English Proficient. It includes students who have a variety of cultural backgrounds and those who come from various settings (rural, large city urban, suburban, and small cities).

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The staff development program required to implement Project Success Enrichment includes a basic two- to four-day training and follow-up sessions (inservice, classroom observations, and coaching sessions). An on-site coordinator provides follow-up support with phone, e-mail, and other assistance provided by the Project Success Enrichment certified trainer and program developer.

The training focuses on using the multiple-modality approach to teaching the language arts and visual arts curricula. It specifically stresses how to accommodate differences in students' academic and cognitive ability. The introductory training is designed to familiarize teachers with the instructional strategies needed to implement the program and the language arts curriculum. These strategies include word expansion, sentence expansion, imagery, drafting, and revision skills. Teachers learn to engage students in writing descriptions, poetry, fantasies, and adventures. The language arts curriculum can be presented individually along with the visual arts or in an integrated fashion.

More advanced levels of training focus on pedagogical techniques for implementing more complex elements of the language arts curriculum such as literary analysis and symbolism. Other training available to supplement the program implementation includes three levels of training on visual arts and three levels of training on integrating language arts through the curriculum.

Teachers receive extensive support materials including sample instructional materials, student writing samples to use with their students, sample curriculum units, and guidance in developing further units of study.

Process

- training
- demonstrations
- modeling
- curriculum development
- on-site support

Intended Audience

- entire department or team
- entire school

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Project Success Enrichment increases students' skills in writing and critical and creative thinking through a process approach to writing and the integration of literature and visual arts. Teachers acquire constructivist instructional strategies and techniques for accommodating the diverse needs of learners in their classrooms.

EVIDENCE OF INCREASED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Success Indicators

- student writing portfolios
- student visual arts portfolios

Multiple evaluations of Project Success Enrichment over 15 years have demonstrated its positive impact on student performance. Pre- and post-test portfolios collected and evaluated by experts demonstrated student growth in both writing and visual arts. Portfolios incorporated both writing and visual arts and included classroom-based samples of students' writing in multiple genre including short stories, poems, descriptions, and character descriptions.

Evidence of student achievement has been demonstrated on multiple measures of reading and writing. In a 1983 experimental study, 469 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students at 17 sites in five states demonstrated statistically significant ($p < .008$) growth in creative writing skills. The characteristics used to assess creative writing were descriptive language, imagery, and overall quality of writing.

In a 1996 study third- to seventh-grade students at 37 sites in 16 states who participated in Project Success Enrichment scored significantly better on a creative writing assessment than students in a comparison group who did not participate in the program ($p < .05-.000$).

Program participants are encouraged to conduct pre- and post-test assessments to measure continuous improvement of student work.

THE BOTTOM LINE



Project Success Enrichment incorporates a process approach to writing with the study of literature and visual arts to enhance students' writing and critical and creative thinking skills. The program combines curriculum and instructional materials that can be used independently or integrated within the regular language arts curriculum. The program has flexibility to accommodate the academic and cognitive needs of a wide range of student learners.

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DOCUMENTATION

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