

Literacy Design COLLABORATIVE

Colorado Integration Project



What is the LITERACY DESIGN COLLABORATIVE?

“The LDC model allows me to differentiate my instruction so EVERYONE learns, everyone feels confident and everyone participates. These models allow us to set higher expectations so we can generate higher outcomes.”

~Educator

The Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) is a research-based approach to incorporating literacy into all K-12 content areas, encouraging critical skill development and inquiry-based learning.

LDC allows educators to build content on top of a coherent approach to literacy by providing a common framework that facilitates teacher creativity and helps educators differentiate instruction.

Educators use the LDC framework to create their own LDC tasks, modules, and courses. Students are exposed to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in literacy while also learning to meet content demands in other subject areas, at high levels of performance. The modules allow students to learn at their own pace and provide challenges for all students regardless of their abilities.

LDC Provides Educators with:

- A vehicle for delivering content while incorporating reading and writing tasks
- A tool for guiding rigorous instruction and backwards design
- Strategies to differentiate instruction
- Formative assessments
- Common language and structure to facilitate collaboration across schools, districts and the nation
- Instructional strategies that foster student engagement while delivering Colorado Academic Standards, including CCSS

What is the Colorado Integration Project?

The Colorado Integration Project is a collaborative effort to pilot a more integrated model of teaching and learning designed to significantly improve the number and rate of students who graduate from Colorado high schools college and career-ready while providing a more professional and rewarding environment for educators.

This is not just another initiative, and it goes beyond implementing required legislation. It aims to ensure the highest possible performance for both educators and students by aligning academic content, educator performance, student achievement, and professional growth. It uses promising tools to integrate these components together in a way that creates greater results than would be possible if done in isolation.

The project builds on work that districts are already doing to create systems that support good teachers and provide students with meaningful, engaging learning experiences. It elevates the environment for teaching and learning while advancing achievement by creating differentiated instruction for students and differentiated professional development for educators.

The Integration Districts are leading this work by serving as “learning laboratories” to capture lessons learned and inform best practices for local and statewide implementation.

How Does a Teacher Use LDC?

There are four steps an educator uses to complete the LDC process

1. Select an LDC template aligned to CCSS and write a task.
2. Identify the skills students need to succeed on the task.
3. Create the instructional plan for teaching content and utilizing specific literacy skills.
4. Determine how student work meets expectations using a common rubric.

Section 1: What Task?

What task sets clear, measurable goals for learning?

Teacher selects LDC template with CCSS standards already “hard-wired” in, then chooses and adds content.

Section 2: What Skills?

What skills do students need to succeed on the teaching task?

Teacher identifies, defines, clusters, and orders the skills students need to complete the task.

Section 3: What Instruction?

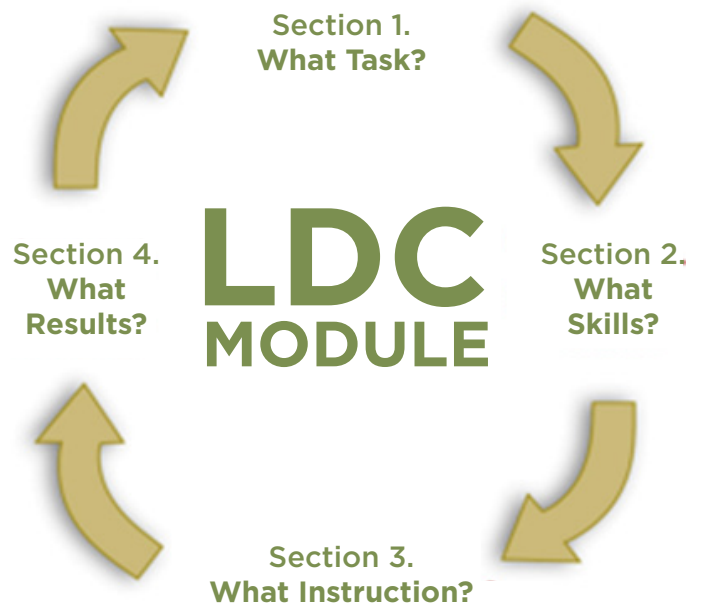
How will students be taught to succeed on the teaching task?

Teacher establishes the instructional plan to teach students the skills necessary to succeed on the task.

Section 4: What Results?

How good is good enough?

Teacher creates classroom assessment tasks, scores and shares student work using common LDC rubric.



About The Colorado Education Initiative

The Colorado Education Initiative (CEI) is an independent non-profit organization that works in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education and public education stakeholders to accelerate bold improvement in student achievement through innovation, collaboration and capacity building.

CEI believes that increased student achievement for all Colorado students requires effective leaders in every school, effective educators in every classroom, and healthy and engaging environments that ignite a passion for learning in every student.

To learn more about the LDC in Colorado, please contact Amy Spicer, Director, Research and Impact at aspicer@coloradoedinitiative.org or (720) 502-4707.

“The LDC has raised achievement levels. It’s forcing other disciplines to apply reading, writing and communication standards in their content areas and embrace literacy as a shared responsibility.” - Pam M., Pagosa Springs Middle School Language Arts Teacher