

Learning Walks: Reflecting on Materials, Instruction, and Vision



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PURPOSE

Learning walks support districts in examining the alignment between instructional vision, current materials, and classroom practice.

This reflection helps districts identify the most impactful next steps to prepare for high-quality instructional materials adoption and implementation.

This tool is designed to:

- ▶ Ground decisions in classroom evidence
- ▶ Strengthen alignment before materials review
- ▶ Clarify priorities for adoption and implementation

WHEN DISTRICTS SHOULD USE THIS TOOL

District teams may use this tool when:

- ▶ Preparing for an instructional materials adoption cycle
- ▶ Assessing current instructional practices across classrooms
- ▶ Identifying strengths and gaps prior to materials review
- ▶ Aligning instructional vision with classroom reality

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

This tool is designed for structured, team-based reflection.

District teams should:

1. Conduct classroom observations across multiple classrooms or schools
2. Capture evidence aligned to the three focus areas below
3. Discuss findings and identify patterns
4. Complete the reflection and synthesis sections
5. Identify a clear focus and next step

This process is not evaluative. It is intended to support reflection, alignment, and planning.

FOCUS AREAS FOR LEARNING WALKS

During observations, attend to three key areas:



Strength of the Materials

- ▶ Are materials aligned to benchmarks and district priorities?
- ▶ Do tasks promote reasoning, problem solving, and conceptual understanding?



Depth of Implementation

- ▶ Are materials used as intended?
- ▶ Are students engaging in meaningful thinking?
- ▶ Is implementation consistent across classrooms?



Alignment of the Vision

- ▶ Are district values visible in classroom practice?
- ▶ Do instructional routines reflect the intended student experience?

Part 1: Strength of the Materials

Guiding Questions:

- ▶ What materials are currently in use?
- ▶ What evidence suggests strengths or gaps in quality?
- ▶ How well do these materials support your instructional vision?

District Evidence:

Additional Context:

Synthesis:

- ☐ Strength
- ☐ Barrier
- ☐ Unclear

Part 2: Depth of Implementation

Guiding Questions:

- ▶ How are materials being used during instruction?
- ▶ Are lessons implemented as intended?
- ▶ What systems support implementation?

District Evidence:

Additional Context:

Synthesis:

- ☐ Strength
- ☐ Barrier
- ☐ Unclear

Part 3: Alignment of the Vision

Guiding Questions:

- ▶ What is your current instructional vision?
- ▶ Where is that vision visible in classroom practice?
- ▶ How consistently is the vision understood across the system?

District Evidence:

Additional Context:

Synthesis:

- ☐ Strength
- ☐ Barrier
- ☐ Unclear

IDENTIFYING FOCUS AND PLANNING NEXT STEPS

Step 1: Identify Your Focus

Based on your reflection, select the area that will have the greatest impact:

- ☐ Strengthening materials
- ☐ Deepening implementation
- ☐ Aligning the vision
- ☐ Other: _____

Step 2: Justify Your Focus

What evidence supports this decision?

Step 3: Define a Near-Term Action

What is one action your team can take in the next 4–6 weeks?

Examples may include:

- ▶ Refining selection criteria
- ▶ Strengthening implementation supports
- ▶ Revisiting instructional vision
- ▶ Developing tools for classroom observation

Step 4: Identify Needed Support

What support will help you take this step?

- ☐ Internal district resources
- ☐ External partners
- ☐ Tools or templates
- ☐ Professional learning

LEADERSHIP CHECKPOINT

Before moving forward, district leaders should ask:

- ▶ Do we have a clear understanding of current classroom practice?
- ▶ Are we aligned on our most important focus area?
- ▶ Is our next step specific and actionable?
- ▶ Will this step move us closer to successful implementation?

WHY THIS MATTERS

Learning walks help districts move from assumptions to evidence.

By examining materials, instruction, and vision together, districts can:

- ▶ Make more informed decisions
- ▶ Strengthen alignment before adoption
- ▶ Improve implementation outcomes

This ensures that adoption is not just about selecting materials, but about creating the conditions for those materials to succeed.