

Success AT THE Core

How Teams and Teachers Transform Instruction

An Introduction

www.successatthecore.com

Success at the Core

A **free**, online, research-based professional development toolkit designed to help **leadership teams** and **teachers** improve classroom instruction and school leadership capacity

Development Team

Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC)

A global nonprofit organization that creates innovative programs to address some of the world's most urgent challenges. EDC works with public and private sector partners to improve education, health promotion and care, workforce preparation, communication technologies, and civic engagement. We enjoy a worldwide reputation for our research, training, and educational materials used in all 50 states and in 35 countries. EDC activities range from seed projects to large-scale national and international initiatives.

For more information, go to www.edc.org.

Vulcan Productions

The Seattle-based independent production company of Paul G. Allen, philanthropist and co-founder of Microsoft. Our films and documentaries have been nominated for five Academy Awards and have won Emmy, Peabody, Humanitas, Independent Spirit, and DuPont-Columbia awards. A partial list of credits includes: *This Emotional Life*; *Evolution*; *Martin Scorsese Presents: The Blues*; *No Direction Home*; and *RX for Survival: A Global Health Challenge*.

For more information, go to www.vulcanproductions.com.

Depth and Breadth

Leadership Development Modules

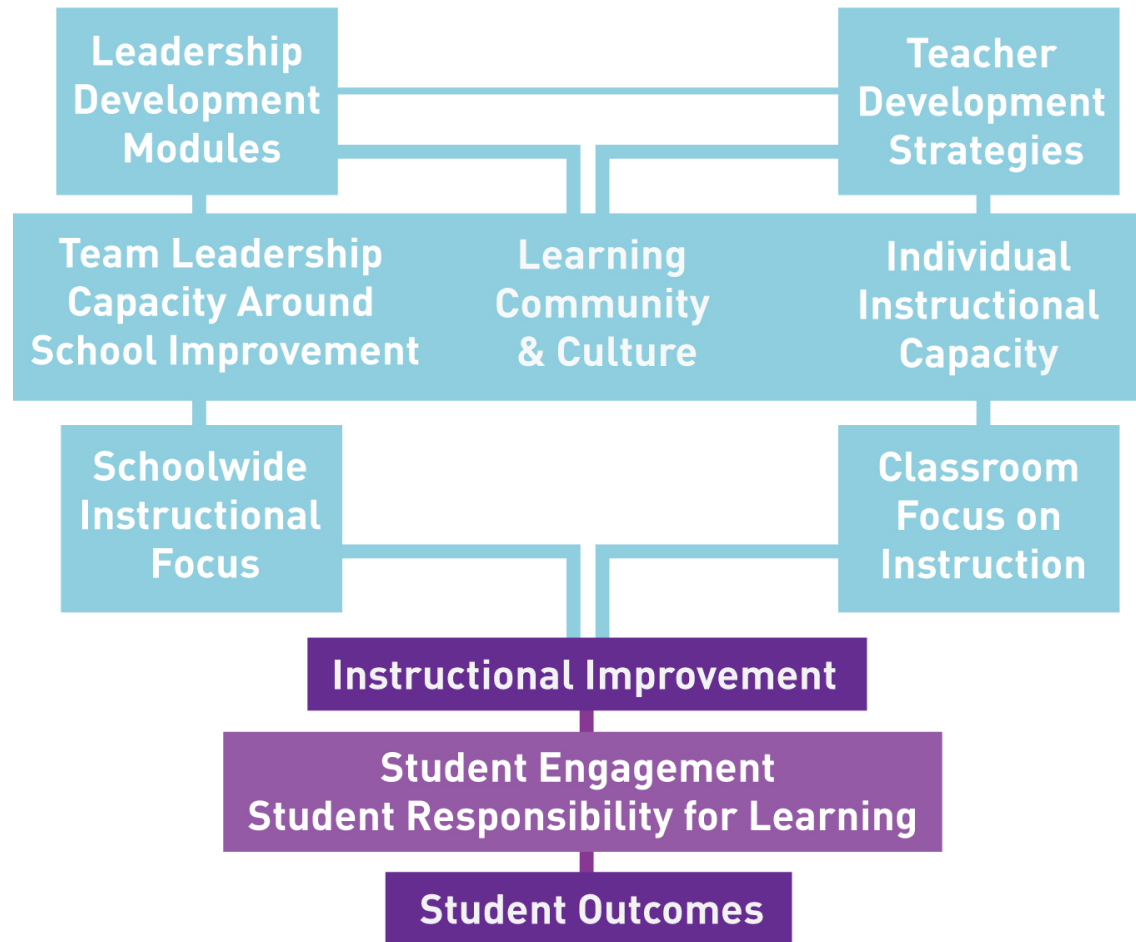
- **Seven modules** address schoolwide practices that improve student achievement, including: using data effectively, aligning curriculum, and defining quality instruction
- Each module is:
 - A 120- or 180-minute group learning experience for **schoolwide leadership teams, grade-level and content-area teams, district-level instructional teams**
 - Designed to fit into a leadership team's existing schedule
 - Facilitated by a team member with the help of a facilitator guide and online multimedia presentation
- Module materials include:
 - **21 documentary-quality videos** which illustrate module topics
 - Readings, activities for reflection and planning, and inventories

Depth and Breadth

Teacher Development Strategies

- **24 classroom strategies** each focus on best instructional practice that teachers can add to their repertoire
- Strategies can be explored by teachers **individually, with mentors and coaches, and in small and large groups**
- Each strategy includes:
 - A **documentary-quality video** featuring real classroom footage and teacher interview
 - Artifacts, including lesson plans, handouts, and student work
 - Teacher commentary and reflections
 - Relevant resources from respected voices in the field

Theory of Action



For more on the Theory of Action: www.successatthecore.com/about_theory_of_action.aspx

Uniqueness

- Focuses on both instructional and leadership capacity
- Uses an **entirely web-based** delivery system for all its programming
- Supports and enhances the talents of **in-house facilitators**, eliminating the need for outside facilitators
- Offers an “**ideologically neutral**” curriculum
- Takes into account the political and technical **challenges** of working in a school
- Makes use of **research-based practices** that are directly linked to student outcomes
- Contains **documentary-style videos** that are authentic, that “look like me,” reflecting the feel of a *real* classroom

Videos: A Defining Feature

- Includes over six hours of high-quality video
- 21 videos feature leadership teams, 24 feature classroom teachers
- Quality far exceeds other available resources for educator professional development
- Videos offer a vision of quality instruction:
 - Allows viewers to see themselves
 - Tells the story by demonstrating what actually happened in the classroom or on school teams
 - Captures the work of the teacher and the students
- All videos are supported by professional learning materials to encourage deep learning, reflection, and improvement of practice

Research

The *Success at the Core* team is committed to research and evaluation around the use and impact of its materials.

Pilot Study

Success at the Core was piloted in 11 middle schools in Washington State in the 2009-10 school year. Inverness Research, Inc. conducted and evaluated the pilot and reported:

- The materials are high quality, relevant to targeted users, usable in the school contexts, and valuable for instructional improvement
- Pilot leadership teams experienced growth in leadership capacity, professionalization of school culture, and a heightened instructional focus
- Pilot teachers experienced renewed commitment to student-centered teaching, improved instructional practices, and increased student engagement

Research Underway

Currently, Inverness is conducting a Sustainability Study – to determine naturalistic use of the materials by pilot schools – and an Impact Study – to examine the impact of the materials on instruction and student learning.

For more on research: www.successatthecore.com/about_pilot_evaluation.aspx

Next Steps

- Become a *Success at the Core* member!
Register online at www.successatthecore.com
- Learn more. Check out:
 - **Web tour**, accessed from the homepage
 - **Archived webinars**, accessed from the “About *Success at the Core*” menu bar, under ““About the Materials”
- **Spread the word** about this free, high-quality resource
- Questions or comments? **Contact us** at: info@successatthecore.com