LEA Policy Framework

SWIFT in Sixty DISCUSSION Guide

Before You Watch

▶ Discussion Questions

1. What role should a district play in guiding school practices?

2. How can a district support and hinder school practices?

3. Think of an example of a district policy related to inclusive education, and describe how it helps or hinders inclusive education?

4. How could district policies be used to help support inclusive education?

▶ Group Activity

Locate one example of a district policy (perhaps something from the district website) and answer the following:

a. What is the purpose of the policy?

b. What is the advantage of having a formal/written policy for this topic?

c. How is this policy applied at our school?

d. Does this policy reflect up-to-date practices in our school?

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SWIFT DISCUSSION
In Sixty — 60 — Guide
While You Watch

▶ Discussion Questions

1. Share two noteworthy moments related to LEA Policy Framework from the video.

2. Currently, what processes are in place to evaluate the effectiveness of our district policies? Who is involved in the process? Is the process formal?

3. Is data used to inform LEA policy? If so, how? If not, what data are collected that could inform policy development?

4. Are current policies supportive of SWIFT transformational practices? If so, how? If not, what is the process for revising policies to remove the barrier(s)?

▶ Group Activity

Create a mock proposal to our local school board for a policy addition or revision that would help support inclusive practices in our school.

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

The LEA Policy Framework means that the Local Education Agency, also known as the LEA or school district, has a formal structure to continually evaluate and rewrite policy in support of quality practice. The LEA plays an essential role in guiding school practices that involve English learners, Title I funding for at-risk students, or special education programs. School practices are influenced by many federal, state and district initiatives. The LEA Policy Framework integrates these initiatives and works to align complicated regulations while supporting positive outcomes for students. For example, a district might change personnel policy and hiring practices to facilitate collaboration between general and specialized educators. When the LEA has a formal structure to incorporate school input and data, policies related to inclusive education become more responsive to individual school and student needs. The LEA Policy Framework promotes and sustains a district where every student participates meaningfully in all social and instructional settings.
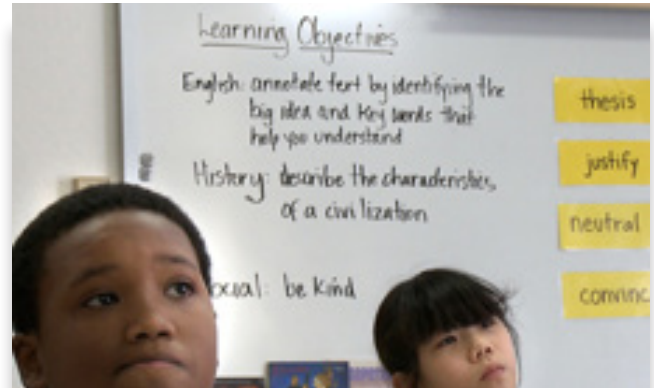
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After You Watch

▶ Discussion Questions

1. What are or could be our procedures for getting input on district policies from people in the following roles?

   a. Teacher

   b. Administrator

   c. Community Member

   d. Parent/Family

   e. Student

   f. Other

2. Identify the federal, state, or district initiatives that are currently in place for our school (for example, Common Core State Standards, Response to Intervention, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports).

3. What are we doing now or could we do to help align these initiatives with one another?

▶ Group Activity

Design a policy that could be in place at the district level to support inclusive practices at our school.