

Glossary

ACRONYMS AND TERMS

action research

Research, usually informal, designed to answer a specific question or for direct application to behavior or to a situation, conducted by teachers in their classrooms.

AP

Advanced Placement; College Level Course and Examination administered by The College Board

BICS

Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills

blog

Short for weblog. A type of Web site, usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Used as a verb, it refers to maintaining or adding content to a blog.

Bloom's Taxonomy

A classification of levels of intellectual behavior important in learning, developed by psychologist Benjamin Bloom in 1956. Bloom identified six levels within the cognitive domain, including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

BOCES

Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Brain Gym

A nonprofit organization committed to the principle that intentional movement is the door to optimal living and learning. Its mission is to support self-awareness and ease of living and learning through safe, simple, and effective movement. Brain Gym movements, exercises, or activities refer to the original 26 Brain Gym movements, sometimes abbreviated as the 26. These activities recall the movements naturally done during the first years of life when learning to coordinate the eyes, ears, hands, and whole body.

CALP

Cognitive academic language proficiency

CELA

Center on English Learning and Achievement, University at Albany, language research center www.albany.edu/cela

CHILDSPlay

Character, Health-Related Fitness, Intelligence, Lifestyle, Development and Skilled Play - elements of a P-12 physical education curriculum

cloze activity

A method of measuring a person's reading comprehension by measuring the ability to restore omitted portions of an oral or written message by reading its remaining context.

critical thinking

The logical thought processes of the scientific method, including divergent and analytical thinking.

curriculum compacting

Instructional strategy, developed for gifted and talented students, that includes eliminating repetition of work that has already been mastered and streamlining of lessons while documenting student proficiency on instructional objectives and listing specifically what enrichment activities are offered in place of repetitive class work. The process of compacting includes three phases: defining goals and outcomes, identifying candidates for compacting, and providing acceleration and enrichment options.

decode

To analyze spoken or graphic symbols of a familiar language to ascertain their intended meaning.

DBQ

Document-based question

DE

Discrepant Event: An event that causes an unexpected contradiction with one's prior knowledge

DS

Down syndrome

ELA

English language arts: NYS Learning Standards

ELL

English language learner

graphic organizers

Visual and graphic representations of information that show both units of information and the relationship between these units. Also known as concept maps, story maps, advance organizers, story webs, semantic maps, and cognitive organizers, they are often used to teach text structure, to aid comprehension, support writing organization and planning and to help students understand vocabulary.

HLL

Heritage language learner: Student who has basic oral skills in a language other than English and participates in LOTE instruction in that language.

inquiry

Instructional strategy based on seeking information by questioning rather than presenting.

life skills classroom

A structured learning environment that focuses on the skills of daily living.

LOTE

Languages other than English: NYS Learning Standards

MALP

Mutually adaptive learning paradigm

manipulative

An object designed so a student can learn some concept by manipulating it. The use of manipulatives provides a way for children to learn concepts in developmentally appropriate, hands-on ways. Examples include blocks, letter tiles, and shapes.

metacognition

Awareness and knowledge of one's mental processes such that one can monitor, regulate and direct them to a desired end.

MST

Math, Science and Technology: NYS Learning Standards

multimodality

Learning or instruction that uses more than one sense.

NASPE

National Association for Sport and Physical Education

NCES

The National Center for Education Statistics: primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education.

NCTM

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

NSTA

National Science Teachers Association

PDA

Personal digital assistant (archaic: public display of affection)

PLC

Professional Learning Community

PSAT

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test: administered by The College Board

realia

Objects from real life used in classroom instruction by educators to improve student understanding of other cultures and real-life situations. Often used by a teacher of a foreign language to strengthen students' associations between words for everyday objects and the objects themselves.

rubric

A set of criteria and standards linked to learning objectives that is used to assess performance. In education, a scoring tool for evaluation of subjective assessments.

SAT

Scholastic Aptitude Test, administered by The College Board. A standardized exam used as admission test by many U.S. colleges and universities.

schema

An underlying organizational pattern or structure; conceptual framework.

Sheltered Instruction Instructional model for English language learners that teaches content through a developmental language approach.

SIFE

Students with Interrupted Formal Education

SIOP

Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol

SLIFE

Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education

text (verb)

To send text-based messages using phone or PDA.

Twitter

A free social networking and microblogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to subscribers, who are known as followers.

Vertical Teaming

Practice of establishing a team of different grade-level teachers in an academic area to communicate, cooperate and design curricular change to encourage high student achievement.

Wikipedia

Web-based, collaborative, multilingual encyclopedia project. The name is taken from wiki (a technology for creating collaborative Web sites, from the Hawaiian word meaning "quick"). Wikipedia's 14 million articles have been written collaboratively by volunteers around the world, almost all of which can be edited by anyone with access to the site.