IMPACT ON ACHIEVEMENT:
monitor best, first instruction every day
Monitor First, Best Instruction Every Day

As instructional leaders, we know that there is no silver bullet to increasing student achievement. But there are instructional practices we know are effective—and many we know are not. In order to increase student achievement, it is incumbent that we as leaders look at what students are receiving on a daily basis and evaluate what is working for them and what is not. Research clarifies that best, first instruction is a set of strategic learning practices. A decision screen is needed that assesses a school’s strengths and gaps to ensure that all student learning is driven by:

- a standards-based curriculum with measurable and achievable objectives,
- highly engaging, effective, and efficient instruction,
- regular assessment that guides instructional decision making, and
- a positive academic climate.

So… what is best, first instruction?
Why should best, first instruction have a focus on student ownership?

“When teachers take time to empower students by teaching them how to take an active role in their education and providing them opportunities to do so, student engagement contributes to the goal of improving student achievement.”

What is student ownership?

“Developing ownership ensures that learners have the authority, capacity, and responsibility to own their learning.”
With best, first instruction each and every student...

...can explain the plan for their learning that leads to mastery.

...can articulate when they are learning and when they are struggling.

...can state what they are learning and why.

...willingly takes risks in their learning.

think about your students
Best, first instruction supports student ownership in each of these critical areas.
Best, first instruction is...

Each and every student being supported by a CURRICULUM that...

• tells them what they are learning and how they will show they have learned it,

• offers an integrated approach with conceptual redundancy, and

• allows for access to rigorous materials.
Best, first instruction is...

Each and every student being supported by **INSTRUCTION** that includes...

- student-to-student conversations,
- highly effective strategies, and
- efficient use of time.
Best, first instruction is...

Each and every student being supported by in-class **ASSESSMENT** that...

- monitors their understanding,
- offers specific feedback,
- offers adjustments if needed, and
- allows for differentiation.
Best, first instruction is...

Each and every student being supported by an academic **CLIMATE** that is...

- respectful,
- cooperative,
- collaborative, and
- open to risk-taking.
What is the role of the instructional leader in monitoring best, first instruction?
Strategic Learning Practices for Elevating Achievement™: A Decision Screen

Curriculum
All student learning is driven by a standards-based curriculum with measurable and achievable objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Each and every student is supported by:</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevant standards with measurable and achievable objective(s) that are accessible and drive all learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit/lesson(s) that provide an integrated approach and that support conceptual redundancy of the objective(s).</td>
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<td>Access to curriculum materials that match the content and rigor of the objective(s).</td>
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Instruction
All student learning is driven by highly engaging, effective, and efficient instruction.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for meaningful engagement using structured student-to-student communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for meaningful engagement using effective instructional strategies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for meaningful engagement where instructional time is used efficiently.</td>
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### Assessment
All student learning is driven by regular assessment that guides instructional decision making.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data that is used to monitor current understanding and provide feedback.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data that is used to monitor current understanding and to adjust instruction, as needed.</td>
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<td>Data that is used to differentiate based on predetermined student needs.</td>
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### Climate
All student learning is driven by a positive academic climate.

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<tr>
<td>A respectful academic environment that recognizes and promotes each student.</td>
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<td>A cooperative academic environment that encourages risk-taking.</td>
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<td>A collaborative academic environment that enhances student productivity.</td>
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