

Map of Modules

An Overview of our Two Pathways

The following is a list of modules available in the Sanford Inspire professional-development toolkit. These flexible, on-demand modules can be completed in one hour or less and in any sequence. Plan your personalized experience using this at-a-glance overview to develop your knowledge, skills and mindset to support social emotional learning and inspirational instruction in your classroom.

Pathway: Building Teaching Practices

Engage in effective teaching strategies that support successful classroom management and high-quality instruction.

Unit: Learning Environment

Understand structures and strategies that promote positive learning environments.

Topic: Student Interactions (5.5 hours)

Discover how to create an environment where students feel safe and engaged in learning.

Modules

Building Relationships with Students* (30 Minutes)

Examine the importance of strong teacher-student relationships and take steps to strengthen your own bonds with students.

The Physical Environment of Your Classroom* (30 Minutes)

Recognize how classroom environment affects student behavior, motivation, and achievement, then apply best practices to create a safe, welcoming space.

Recognizing Bullying Behavior* (60 Minutes)

Investigate the causes and effects of bullying and determine best practices for identifying bullying in the classroom.

Addressing Bullying Behavior* (60 Minutes)

Equip yourself with best practices for intervening and resolving bullying scenarios to create a positive classroom environment.

Causes of Misbehavior* (30 Minutes)

Identify the root causes of classroom misbehavior and respond with interventions that address those causes.

Creating Classroom Rules* (30 Minutes)

Collaborate with students to identify desired classroom behaviors and craft effective rules linked to those behaviors.

* This module appears in multiple units.

Understanding Consequences* (30 Minutes)

Investigate the difference between consequences and punishments, and learn how consequences can help maintain safe, equitable classrooms.

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (60 Minutes)

Review teachers' responsibilities as mandated reporters and learn how to handle student disclosures of abuse.

Topic: Intentional Instruction (5 hours)

Explore ideas on intentional lesson design, supporting all learners in a lesson structure.

Modules**Teaching Students Empathy* (30 Minutes)**

Consider the impact of empathy on learning and discover ways to model, establish, and nurture empathy in your classroom throughout the year.

Helping Students "Want" to Achieve* (30 Minutes)

Examine behaviors, questions, and strategies that help increase the value students place on school and thus increase their motivation to succeed.

Helping Students Believe They "Can" Achieve (30 Minutes)

Investigate the elements of expectancy and identify strategies for increasing it—and thus increasing motivation—in students.

How to Model Effectively (60 Minutes)

Help students move toward independence and increase academic gains by modeling important skills in the classroom.

Backwards Planning a Unit (30 Minutes)

Ensure student mastery by designing a unit plan that begins with a clear vision of desired outcomes.

Supporting Language Development Through Social Interaction (30 Minutes)

Increase emerging bilingual students' reading, writing, speaking, and problem-solving skills by using sociocultural language theory strategies in the classroom.

Using Feedback to Foster Discussion (60 Minutes)

Fine-tune your responses during classroom conversations to foster a rich dialogue and authentic discussion.

Using Morphology to Support English Language Learners (30 Minutes)

Teach English language learners how to recognize and analyze patterns in words to improve their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Unit: Professional Practices

* This module appears in multiple units.

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Develop new knowledge and skills to successfully plan, execute, and modify instructional strategies to reach every student.

Topic: Instructional Design and Planning

Understand research-based teaching strategies that are effective in engaging and supporting students in learning.

Modules

Annotation as an Interactive Reading Strategy (30 Minutes)

Deepen your students' comprehension of any text by teaching them to actively engage with the material.

Elements of a Lesson Opening (30 Minutes)

Identify three elements of an effective lesson opening and explore a variety of strategies to incorporate them into your instruction.

Elements of a Lesson Closure (30 Minutes)

Explore strategies for wrapping up a learning experience that help students make connections and remember key information.

Giving Clear Directions for a Task (30 Minutes)

Set students up for success by ensuring they understand exactly what is expected of them during every classroom activity.

Engaging Emotions to Improve Memory Retention* (30 Minutes)

Examine how the brain processes information and learn strategies that improve students' knowledge retention by sparking emotional responses.

Organizing Information to Improve Memory (30 Minutes)

Discover how to improve students' memory retention by organizing information and lessons in meaningful ways.

Using Bloom's Taxonomy to Plan Questions (30 Minutes)

Identify different levels of thinking, and plan questions that push students toward higher levels of thinking.

Teaching Close Reading (30 Minutes)

Explore the process of planning and evaluating a close-reading lesson with tools that can be used across multiple content areas.

Valuing Bilingualism* (30 Minutes)

Consider the consequences of restrictive English-only education policies, and develop strategies to support emerging bilingual students' academic success.

Combating Cognitive Overload* (30 Minutes)

* This module appears in multiple units.

Get to know the primary causes of cognitive overload and learn to help students overcome it while improving memory retention.

Preparing for Student Discussions* (30 Minutes)

Create an environment conducive to rich conversation by creating norms, considering logistics, and modeling desired skills for your students.

Supporting Students with ADHD (60 Minutes)

Become familiar with symptoms of ADHD and their effect on executive functions, and acquire strategies for supporting students with ADHD.

Strategies to Address Specific Learning Disabilities in Reading (60 Minutes)

Learn common areas of struggle and research-based strategies to support students with a specific learning disability in reading.

Strategies to Address Specific Learning Disabilities in Writing (60 Minutes)

Examine components of high-quality writing instruction that provide support to students with a learning disability in writing.

Topic: Universal Design (Differentiation) (2.5 hours)

Build understanding about how to effectively teach and inspire diverse groups of students with high levels of engagement.

Modules

Preparing to Differentiate: Learner Profile (30 Minutes)

Learn how to observe and what behaviors to look for in order to determine how a student may learn best.

Preparing to Differentiate: Student Interest (30 Minutes)

Discover how to gather, organize, and sort data related to student interest to prepare for differentiating instruction.

Preparing to Differentiate: Student Readiness (30 Minutes)

Evaluate pre-assessments designed to measure student background knowledge in relation to learning goals.

Differentiation Strategy: Performance Tasks (30 Minutes)

Explore learning objectives appropriate for performance tasks and discover how they can be differentiated to accommodate student needs.

Differentiation Strategy: Student Choice (30 Minutes)

Follow four simple steps to infuse purposeful student choice into lessons based on students' interests.

Topic: Assessment (3 hours)

* This module appears in multiple units.

Explore the power of assessment to promote student engagement and commitment to learning.

Modules

Authentic Assessment (30 Minutes)

Measure students' understanding with a task that reflects their ability to apply knowledge and skills inside and outside the classroom.

Formative Assessment (30 Minutes)

Learn to gauge student progress toward learning goals and then modify instruction as needed to help students master necessary skills.

How to Grade Effectively (30 Minutes)

Identify important dos and don'ts of grading and learn to assign grades that accurately represent what students learn.

Delivering Effective Feedback (30 Minutes)

Discover the characteristics of high-quality academic feedback and learn to apply that knowledge in the classroom.

Understanding SMART Goals (60 Minutes)

Learn to set effective goals for student improvement using strong goal statements and SMART criteria.

Unit: Family Focus

Learn ideas to build rapport with students and families, tapping into students' culture, background and interests.

Topic: Family Engagement (2 hours)

Identify strategies for building and maintaining positive relationships with families.

Modules

Addressing Barriers to Parent Involvement (30 Minutes)

Explore strategies to overcome bias and communicate effectively with a wide range of parents, making them feel valued and welcomed.

Strategies for Communicating with Parents* (30 Minutes)

Discover some helpful “dos and don'ts” for effective teacher-parent communication—in all types of conversations, not just difficult ones.

The Importance of Working with Parents (30 Minutes)

Review research-based benefits of parental involvement and explore the different ways parents can be involved in their children's education.

* This module appears in multiple units.

Strategies for Engaging with Parents (30 Minutes)

Consider strategies that help teachers reach out and build positive relationships with parents.

Topic: Embracing Our Communities (4 hours)

Understand how to build an environment that respects and welcomes all cultures.

Modules**Affirming Difference and Valuing Background Knowledge* (60 Minutes)**

Acknowledge the many valid ways of speaking, behaving, and learning, and learn to build student background knowledge into your instruction.

Linking Identity and Achievement through Cultural Competence* (60 Minutes)

Help culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students develop knowledge and pride in their own culture while preparing them to navigate the mainstream.

Using Critical Consciousness to Challenge Inequity* (60 Minutes)

Guide students in developing a critical consciousness that allows them to identify and question forces that produce inequity.

Working Against Racial Bias* (60 Minutes)

Develop a sociocultural consciousness—recognizing that world views are shaped by experiences and identity—to help you combat racial bias in the classroom.

Pathway: Developing SEL Capacity

Explore how to build healthy relationships in supportive learning environments, enabling students to thrive.

Unit: Foundations of Social Emotional Learning

Learn how to build strong, inspiring relationships with students by recognizing their individuality and celebrating their differences.

Topic: Inspirational Connections (2.5 hours)

Discover the role of the teacher in inspiring all students to thrive and succeed.

Modules**Building Relationships with Students* (30 Minutes)**

Examine the importance of strong teacher-student relationships and take steps to strengthen your own bonds with students.

Be the Spark: Nurturing Student Inspiration* (30 Minutes)

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Identify ways to create a classroom environment that nurtures student inspiration and fosters motivation.

Teachers as Agents of Change* (60 Minutes)

Go beyond the "technician" role in the service of equity, using culturally responsive practices in your methods, content, and relationships.

Helping Students "Want" to Achieve* (30 Minutes)

Examine behaviors, questions, and strategies that help increase the value students place on school and thus increase their motivation to succeed.

Topic: Cultural Competence (4.5 hours)

Identify strategies to teach and inspire students whose culture or background may be different from your own.

Modules

Linking Identity and Achievement Through Cultural Competence* (60 Minutes)

Help culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students develop knowledge and pride in their own culture while preparing them to navigate the mainstream.

Using Critical Consciousness to Challenge Inequity* (60 Minutes)

Guide students in developing a critical consciousness that allows them to identify and question forces that produce inequity.

Using Warm Demand to Build Student Achievement (60 Minutes)

Discover mindsets and strategies that balance discipline and care to help students meet high academic expectations.

Working Against Racial Bias* (60 Minutes)

Develop a sociocultural consciousness—recognizing that worldviews are shaped by experiences and identity—to help you combat racial bias in the classroom.

Valuing Bilingualism* (30 Minutes)

Consider the consequences of restrictive English-only education policies, and develop strategies to support emerging bilingual students' academic success.

Topic: Trauma-Informed Instruction (6.5 hours)

Review strategies to help support students through difficult challenges in their lives.

Modules

Drug Use in Schools (60 Minutes)

Discover ways in which schools have traditionally approached disciplining student drug and alcohol use, and consider alternative solutions.

* This module appears in multiple units.

Youth Substance Abuse (60 Minutes)

Acknowledge risk factors for youth substance abuse and related behaviors, then explore strategies to increase students' protective factors and safety.

Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Students (60 Minutes)

Examine how trauma affects children biologically, emotionally, and academically; identify common behavioral and cognitive symptoms of trauma.

Supporting Trauma-Exposed Students (60 Minutes)

Discover strategies for providing behavioral and academic support to traumatized students, and consider their real-world application.

Identifying Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect (60 Minutes)

Identify risk factors and symptoms of child abuse and neglect, as well as common myths and misconceptions.

Restorative Justice: Rethinking Discipline (30 Minutes)

Consider the benefits of using a restorative approach to student discipline and explore restorative-justice strategies to use with students.

Recognizing Bullying Behavior* (60 Minutes)

Investigate the causes and effects of bullying and determine best practices for identifying bullying in the classroom.

Unit: Classroom Design and Instruction

Discover how intentional classroom design and planning can engage and empower all students.

Topic: Designing a Positive Learning Environment (8 hours)

Learn strategies for creating a classroom environment that inspires learners and maximizes engagement time.

Modules**Basic Proactive Classroom Management Strategies (30 Minutes)**

Review three basic proactive strategies that can help prevent misbehavior in the classroom while increasing students' constructive behavior.

Affirming Difference and Valuing Background Knowledge* (60 Minutes)

Acknowledge the many valid ways of speaking, behaving, and learning, and learn to build student background knowledge into your instruction.

Developing Behaviors for Cooperative Learning (60 Minutes)

Guide students in developing the prosocial behaviors necessary for cooperative learning activities and interactions they will face throughout life.

* This module appears in multiple units.

Teaching Students Empathy* (30 Minutes)

Consider empathy's effect on learning and discover ways to model, establish, and nurture empathy in your classroom throughout the year.

The Physical Environment of Your Classroom* (30 Minutes)

Recognize how classroom environment affects student behavior, motivation, and achievement, then apply best practices to create a safe, welcoming space.

Causes of Misbehavior* (30 Minutes)

Identify the root causes of classroom misbehavior and respond with interventions that address those causes.

Creating Classroom Rules* (30 Minutes)

Collaborate with students to identify desired classroom behaviors and craft effective rules linked to those behaviors.

Identifying Necessary Procedures (30 Minutes)

Determine the trouble spots in your classroom routine that could be improved by a thoughtfully conceived procedure.

Designing Effective Procedures (30 Minutes)

Identify the characteristics of meaningful classroom procedures and learn the three steps necessary to create them.

Teaching Procedures (30 Minutes)

Effectively teach, practice, and reinforce procedures so they become routines that help the classroom run more smoothly.

Creating Logical Consequences (30 Minutes)

Follow a step-by-step process for creating consequences that relate logically to the rules and behavioral expectations in your classroom.

Understanding Consequences* (30 Minutes)

Investigate the difference between consequences and punishments, and learn how consequences can help maintain safe, equitable classrooms.

Delivering Consequences (30 Minutes)

Examine best practices and some simple steps to follow when delivering a consequence for classroom misbehavior.

Topic: Intentional Instructional Design and Planning (3.5 hours)

Examine the benefits of pre-planning for both content and process to fully engage students in their learning.

Modules

Structuring Academic Conversations (30 Minutes)

* This module appears in multiple units.

Review sociocultural language theory and learn four concrete strategies to facilitate academic conversations with emerging bilingual students.

Design a Problem-Based Learning Experience (60 Minutes)

Investigate the benefits of Problem-Based Learning for students and teachers, review a sample plan, and design your own PBL lesson.

Structuring Cooperative Learning (30 Minutes)

Identify and implement essential components of cooperative learning to increase academic achievement and help students become more collaborative.

Giving Effective Praise (60 Minutes)

Understand characteristics of effective and ineffective praise—observing examples of each—and learn best practices for delivering praise that reinforces desired behavior.

Creating Multi-Sensory Experiences to Improve Memory Retention (30 Minutes)

Learn how the brain transfers information to long-term memory, then explore instructional strategies for creating experiences that improve memory retention.

Unit: Inspired Leadership

Reflect on how to improve teaching practices, classroom culture, and relationships with students and adults.

Topic: Intrapersonal (2 hours)

Understand how practicing self-care, increasing educator self-awareness, and tapping into student motivation strengthens instruction.

Modules

Coping with Teacher Stress (30 Minutes)

Examine the causes and symptoms of teacher stress and explore a variety of strategies to help cope with it.

Be the Spark: Nurturing Student Inspiration* (30 Minutes)

Identify ways to create a classroom environment that nurtures student inspiration and fosters motivation.

Teachers as Agents of Change* (60 Minutes)

Go beyond the "technician" role in the service of equity, using culturally responsive practices in your methods, content, and relationships.

Topic: Interpersonal (3.5 Hours)

Recognize the importance of building respectful and professional relationships with students, parents and colleagues.

Modules

* This module appears in multiple units.

Building Relationships with Students* (30 Minutes)

Examine the importance of strong teacher-student relationships and take steps to strengthen your own bonds with students.

Maintaining Professional Relationships with Students (30 Minutes)

Identify the dos and don'ts associated with the five guiding principles for professional relationships with students.

Maintaining Professional Relationships with Colleagues (30 Minutes)

Learn four principles that can help teachers develop and maintain professional relationships with their colleagues.

Strategies for Communicating with Parents* (30 Minutes)

Discover some helpful “dos and don'ts” for effective teacher-parent communication—in all types of conversations, not just difficult ones.

Addressing Bullying Behavior* (60 Minutes)

Equip yourself with best practices for intervening and resolving bullying scenarios to create a positive classroom environment.

Teacher Professionalism in the Age of Social Media (30 Minutes)

Understand how your digital footprint represents you as a professional, and learn strategies to manage it effectively.

Topic: Cognitive Processing (1 Hour)

Investigate strategies that build cognitive capabilities.

Modules**Combating Cognitive Overload* (30 Minutes)**

Get to know the primary causes of cognitive overload and learn to help students overcome it while improving memory retention.

Engaging Emotions to Improve Memory Retention* (30 Minutes)

Examine how the brain processes information and learn strategies that improve students' knowledge retention by sparking emotional responses.

* This module appears in multiple units.