The Key Comprehension Routine

Purpose: To embed comprehension, writing, and study strategy instruction into content learning.

Description: The Key Comprehension Routine is a comprehension strategies program for grades 4 through 12. The two-day program integrates comprehension, writing and study strategies into content areas using existing content teaching materials (textbooks and other reading material).

The Common Core Literacy Standards place significant emphasis on having teachers of all subjects and grades teach literacy skills. The Key Comprehension Routine provides instruction that all teachers can immediately use to teach these skills and activities:

- **Comprehension skills**: for close, analytic reading of both narrative and expository text
- **Main idea skills**: categorizing information and vocabulary, and identify/stating main ideas during reading
- **Text structure knowledge**: at the sentence, paragraph, and longer text levels
- **Top-down topic webs**: a flexible, foundational graphic organizer that can be used with all subjects
- **Two-column notes**: a note taking format supports active reading and that can be used for reading or lecture
- **Summarizing**: students comprehend, analyze, and synthesize information to develop a summary of the most important ideas in their own words
- **Generating questions**: students create and answer questions along a continuum of thinking using Bloom’s Taxonomy
- **Cooperative learning**: students learn, practice, and become independent with the comprehension strategies by working in whole group, small collaborative groups, and individually

Target Audience: Grades 4-6 elementary teachers, 7-12 content classroom teachers, educators who provide support to struggling readers and administrators for these teachers.

Professional Development

- **Initial teacher training**: Two-day training session for all teachers. Teachers use their own classroom textbooks and reading material to develop lessons that incorporate The Key Comprehension activities. An optional one-day hybrid online training is available.
- **Training/consultation for building-based coaches**: Two-day training and annual one-day refresher sessions are available for building-based coaches who support the use of the program with their peers.
- **Follow-up support for teachers**: There are several types of follow-up available: guided practice sessions, small-group follow up meetings, classroom observation/modeling.
- **Administrator training**: A half-day training designed to support implementation of the program in schools.

For more information, please contact:

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