

Effective Practices

Effective classrooms are active, engaging environments. Students participate in learning experiences that prepare them to be productive, responsible citizens. They gain knowledge about society, past and present, and participate in learning experiences that enable them to process information in a variety of ways.

Effective practices include:

- Using your state curriculum for guiding curriculum mapping and learning experiences
- Following suggested timelines to ensure content coverage
- Engaging students in learning, working independently and/or interacting cooperatively
- Pre-assessing and ongoing assessment of student learning using a variety of tools such as rubrics, tests, teacher observation, anecdotal records, oral presentations, and projects
- Engaging students in reading (maps, literature, etc.) writing, observing, and talking using a variety of materials
- Integrating history, geography, economics, and civics during instruction
- Using a textbook and a variety of supplemental instructional materials such as primary sources, periodicals, maps, and trade books
- Integrating instructional technology
- Differentiating instruction using a variety of techniques to meet the needs of diverse learners
- Using interactive strategies such as role playing, simulations, debate, and discussion from multiple perspectives
- Engaging students in higher level thinking, e.g., analyzing and synthesizing information, making generalizations, problem solving, making connections, and decisionmaking
- Making connections between students' experiences (prior knowledge), subject-matter content, the real world, and other disciplines
- Demonstrating an appreciation for the benefits of diversity in our schools and communities
- Exploring a variety of cultures found in America and other countries, and their own cultural backgrounds and experiences
- Building background knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways
- Giving direct instruction on strategies for content reading
- Bringing history to life through primary sources, storytelling, read-alouds, hands-on activities, technology, multimedia presentations, photographs, and student-centered learning