

THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALL MEANS
EACH AND EVERY

ONE



Thompson Teaching and Learning

Public Education & Business Coalition

The Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC) is a consortium of business people and educators from the Denver area who merged to discuss how to teach students to be better thinkers and, therefore, better learners. This professional development approach takes the teachers beyond their own classrooms and into school laboratory settings to see what works, have discussions and feedback, then replicate it. Through PEBC, teachers learn about current educational research, observation and implementation of research-based teaching practices, apply the strategy being taught to improve their own skills and collaborate with other educators. PEBC promotes a school and classroom climate of rigor and inquiry. This approach is being used school-wide at Conrad Ball Middle School, Mountain View High School and Winona, Mary Blair and Monroe elementary

Characteristics of PEBC

- Brings teachers together to observe and share best practices
- Focuses on deeper thinking beyond the content
- Emphasizes teaching students how to use their brains and think things through
- Replicates what works, not criticism of what doesn't work
- Works for teachers of all experience and grade and subject areas
- Uses the classroom as a laboratory that provides an environment where teachers can watch, analyze, practice and grow. Most PEBC activities take place in the classroom because professional development is most effective when it is directly linked to the practices of teachers in their own school settings. The focus is on literacy, math, information literacy, whole school design, project-based learning, coaching and turning points (a national design for middle school change).

Strategies used:

Teachers teach how to think so students gain a deep understanding of their reading and writing through the following elements:

- ◆ Monitoring meaning
- ◆ Activating background knowledge
- ◆ Questioning
- ◆ Drawing inferences
- ◆ Determining what is important
- ◆
- ◆ Creating sensory images
- ◆ Synthesizing information
- ◆ Problem solving

MATH AND LITERACY ARE THE KEYS THAT OPEN THE DOOR TO THE WORLD AROUND US

Keys to success for teachers and students:

- Students learn new skills and are able to provide feedback, which helps the teacher integrate the practice for future students as well.
- School leaders learn to better facilitate school reform to become better instructional leaders.
- Coaches, resource teachers and lead teachers have the opportunity to focus on their roles on improving teaching and learning in their schools.
- This approach fosters a community of learners seeking to deepen their understanding of teaching and how to support teachers in using best instructional practices. For more information, see www.thompson.k12.co.us and www.pebc.org.