Universal Design for Learning: Working to Create Equity and Access at the State and District Level

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State UDL Implementation: Maryland Case Study

Maryland UDL Task Force Report: *A Route for Every Learner*
http://bit.ly/1H6okHJ

- The Task Force was appointed by the Governor.

- The mission was to determine the efficacy and effectiveness of implementing UDL and to provide recommendations.

- The method of inquiry included a literature review and interviews with national experts.

- The conclusion was that Maryland should implement UDL to benefit all learners.

- Recommendations were made for all the education systems in the state. Many are listed in the following slides.

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State Board of Education

- Approve a policy stating that UDL principles will be included in: the state's strategic plan; curriculum and assessment development; the review and selection process for textbooks, instructional materials, and technology; and in requests for proposals, grant criteria, and program approval criteria

- Request a steering committee comprised of education stakeholders, including parents, for Pre-K to College to support UDL integration in instructional materials, technology, professional development, curriculum, and instruction

State Department of Education (SEA)

- Define and describe the critical elements of UDL for inclusion in state policies and practices

- Include UDL principles in all state plans and organizational and instructional processes used throughout the SEA

- Develop or compile resources to support the education of community stakeholders, educators, and leadership about UDL within the SEA and across the state

- Include the application of UDL principles in the requirements, as appropriate, for plans submitted to the state by outside entities

School District (Collaborative District and School Administrator Efforts)

- Request a local board of education policy supporting the implementation of UDL principles

- Promote UDL policy implementation

- Enlist parents and community stakeholders in support of UDL

- Develop procedures that encourage collaboration for developing, compiling, and disseminating effective practices and materials across schools

- Collaborate across all departments on strategic uses of existing or future funds to support the purchase of technology and infrastructure to support UDL

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Schools

- Establish a UDL vision with parents, community members, and staff to embed in the school improvement plan

- Create a professional development plan to build UDL capacity using job-embedded professional learning

- Provide opportunities to examine classroom configuration, performance-based and project-based learning, and the incorporation of choices and flexibility into teaching and learning

- Provide UDL planning time to collaborate across disciplines

- Provide mechanisms to share lessons and materials

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Institutions of Higher Education

- Help faculty understand that UDL blends proactive course design with inclusive strategies to benefit a wide range of students

- Request that faculty embed UDL in course syllabi and in the design and delivery of content and assessments

- Embed UDL into the vision and strategic planning for organizational and instructional practices

- Model UDL in the coursework, planning, and delivery of teacher and administrator pre-service/in-service preparation programs

- Provide support for UDL implementation through professional development partnerships with districts and the SEA

Maryland UDL Regulations

- 2013—2014 school year: "local school systems shall use UDL guidelines and principles in the development or revision of curriculum"

- 2014—2015 school year:

  - "systems shall use UDL guidelines and principles…in the development and provision of: (1) Curriculum; (2) Instructional materials; (3) Instruction; (4) Professional development; and (5) Student assessments."

  - "superintendents shall certify in writing to the State Superintendent of Schools that UDL principles and guidelines…are used for ongoing curriculum development." (certification will be required every 3 years, thereafter)

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=13A.03.06.

District UDL Implementation: Montgomery County, Maryland Case Study

HIAT- Montgomery County, MD

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Increase Awareness of UDL

Create a PLC

Implement UDL School-Wide

Kathie's Blog

Quicklinks

About Us

Contact Us

Sign up for the HIAT Newsletter

Increase Awareness with Staff

Resources to share with staff about UDL, video examples of UDL in action, downloadable planners and quick guides.

Create a PLC

Topics to guide a PLCs exploration of UDL, sample staff surveys, and suggestions for forming and strengthening PLCs

Implement UDL School-Wide

Ways to leverage your PLC as a leadership team, information from principals on the impact of UDL in their schools, resources for implementing instructional rounds

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Tools on HIAT Website

Tools

- What is UDL? (FAQ)

- UDL Foundations (4 hour self-paced course)

- Information portals on UDL

- Planners, guides and checklists for UDL lesson planning

- Video examples of UDL in action

- The Ethics of Sharing

- 2012 Maryland COMAR regulations on UDL in PDF and PPT

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Create a UDL Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Tools

- How to start a UDL Study PLC (FAQ)

- Staff surveys to guide PLC planning

HIAT Support

Online Collaboration Tool

HIAT manages an online collaboration site through a NING for schools with active PLC members.

Recognition through E-TIPS

UDL PLC members can earn recognition for their work through E-TIPS hours

- Learn more about E-TIPS

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Tools for Creating a PLC: FAQs about a UDL Study PLC

- What is a UDL Study PLC?

- What are the first steps to starting a UDL Study PLC at my school?

- How should we structure the work of the UDL Study PLC?

- Who should be on the UDL Study PLC?

- What resources are available to help schools implement a UDL study PLC?

- What is the role of the administration?

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Tools for Creating a PLC: Staff Surveys

Use these staff surveys to guide your planning in UDL implementation

Whole Staff Survey

- Self-reflection on UDL implementation (doc) (pdf)

UDL PLC Member Surveys

- Self-reflection on UDL implementation (doc) (pdf)
- Monthly outreach and plan (doc) (pdf)

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Implement UDL School-wide

Tools

- Principal reflections on UDL PLCs

- How to start a UDL Leadership PLC (FAQ)

- UDL instructional rounds process

HIAT Support

HIAT can provide direct support to schools who are interested in establishing UDL Leadership PLCs. Interested principals should call the HIAT Office.

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School-wide Implementation Tools: Principal Reflections and UDL Leadership PLC FAQs

- Principal reflections- short video clips of mid-year reflections by 6 principals of elementary and middle schools that were implementing UDL

- FAQs
  - What is a UDL Study PLC?

  - What are the first steps to starting a UDL Study PLC at my school?

  - How should we structure the work of the UDL Study PLC?

  - Who should be on the UDL Study PLC?

  - What resources are available to help schools implement a UDL study PLC?

  - What is the role of the administration?

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School-wide Implementation Tools: Instructional Rounds Process

- The administrator establishes an instructional rounds team of two educators.
- Observers do classroom visits in 15 minute snapshot observations.
- They collect data using UDL Look For Sheet (focused on students choices regarding products, tools, methods to learn and routines, as well as flexibility in teacher presentations).
- The Administrator debriefs with team of observers and compiles data to share with staff, inform goals setting, and prioritize professional learning.

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Training Videos and Resources for Instructional Rounds Process

- UDL Look Fors Capture Sheet (21K doc)

- UDL Look Fors Data Example (37K excel)

- **UDL Walk Through** (video)

- **UDL Look Fors: Students Making Choices** (video)

- **UDL Look Fors: Classroom Materials** (video)

- Classroom Example: Students Making Choices (video)

- UDL Look Fors Handout with Chart (98K pdf)

- **Explanation of the Features of the data summary spreadsheet** (video)

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UDL Share Space

- An online portal for sharing MCPS curriculum materials
- Accessible to all MCPS staff
- Requires district login and password for access
- Allows the users to download materials created by other teachers
- Allows the users to upload materials they have created to share with others
- Is organized by grade-level, subject area, and unit

Additional Links to UDL Implementation Information

- CAST website: www.cast.org

- National UDL Center: www.udlcenter.org/implementation; http://www.udlcenter.org/implementation/fourdistricts

- National UDL Implementation and Research: http://udl-irn.org

- NCSC wiki, instructional resources for students with significant cognitive disabilities (based on UDL): https://wiki.ncscpartners.org

- Maryland Learning Links, UDL: http://marylandlearninglinks.org/950

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