



Fall 2021

SNAPSHOT

COACHING TEACHERS

Instructional coaching has rapidly grown during the past two decades and empirical studies suggest that this type of professional learning can be more effective than traditional workshops in creating meaningful change in teacher practice and student achievement. Washington County School District has had instructional coaches in their elementary schools for many years and has now expanded this professional learning opportunity to their secondary schools as well. Iron County School District is using some of their federal COVID relief funding to have an instructional coach in each of their buildings starting this school year. SEDC has partnered with USBE and Kane, Garfield, Millard, and Beaver school districts to begin offering instructional coaching.

Instructional coaching is grounded in day-to-day teaching practice and is designed to enhance teachers' instructional practices with the intent of improving student learning. Instructional coaches partner with teachers to provide them with personalized support in meeting their teaching needs. After identifying a classroom challenge to tackle, coaches and teachers closely collaborate to brainstorm and select best strategies; implement selected strategies in the classroom through co-teaching, modeling, and/or observation; and reflect on progress until the challenge is met. In a recent study conducted by Education Next, more than **90 percent** of coached teachers reported at least some improvement in the following teaching challenges as a result of working with their coach: assessment, differentiation, instructional strategies to support a specific content area, classroom management, planning and preparation, and professional growth. In all six of these categories, **more than half** of participating teachers reported "**much**" or "**very much**" improvement.

**90 percent of
coached teachers
report improvement**

The average teacher spends **10 percent** of a typical school year participating in professional development (PD) activities. However, few teachers are highly satisfied with their current PD, and multiple studies over the past decade have revealed that many PD offerings are ineffective in improving teacher practice. Instructional coaching programs hold significant potential to provide such opportunities for deeper engagement and interpretation because they can be integrated into the daily life of teachers at school and create a balance between action and reflection.

There are different types of instructional coaches (e.g., content-focused coaches, technology coaches), and their roles are defined differently from LEA to LEA. Coaches' functions are as varied as the needs of the students and teachers they serve. Regardless of this variety, almost all instructional coaches focus on supporting effective teaching to improve student learning. They ground their work in day-to-day teaching and learning practices and tend to work at the intersections of content, pedagogy, and, in many cases, technology. SEDC has partnered with Southern Utah University and the Utah State Board of Education to begin offering the **Instructional Coaching Endorsement**. The endorsement is a competency-based program that allows participants to not only learn content, but practice the skills, knowledge, and dispositions of an instructional coach by demonstrating their abilities. Teachers from across the region are currently participating in the Instructional Coaching Endorsement program. If you want to learn more visit <https://sedck12.org/category/professional-development/endorsements/instructional-coaching/>.

TUESDAY TECH TALKS

With Clint from SEDC @ 3:30-4 pm every Tuesday



Back by popular demand...Tuesday Tech Talks with Clint and Chris at SEDC. As we continue to attempt to provide educators in the SEDC Region with timely professional learning opportunities, Clint and Chris will be hosting weekly Tuesday Tech Talks. These sessions are open to all teachers and there is no need to pre-register. SEDC will be awarding MIDAS credit as well if you are working on PD for re-licensure.

We know all teachers have very busy schedules! We hope to keep these

Tuesday Tech Talks brief. SEDC staff will provide about 15 minutes of training on the scheduled topic and allow for another 15 minutes of Q&A open on any topic, allowing you a chance to get your specific questions answered and concerns addressed as best we can. Teachers can access each week's session at <https://tinyurl.com/zoom4ttt>. Each session will be recorded as well and will be available on Clint's Tuesday Tech Talks (T.T.T.) YouTube playlist.



SEDC WELCOMES PSYCHOLOGIST TO THE MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

The SEDC Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Dr. Brett Shumway, PhD to the SEDC team. Brett is a Licensed Psychologist in the State of Utah. Licensed psychologists can help people learn to cope with stressful situations, overcome addictions, manage their chronic illnesses, and may also administer tests and assessments that can help diagnose a condition or tell more about the way a person thinks, feels, and behaves. Dr. Shumway is providing individual and group clinical mental health treatment for students across the region. His services are made possible by a grant opportunity in the School-based Mental Health Program. This program was started in 2019 with funding from the Utah Legislature.



Brett holds a Masters of Counseling and Guidance and a PhD in Counseling Psychology, both from New Mexico State University. He has been a licensed mental health provider since 2011. Dr. Shumway has specialized experience and training in integrated school-based mental health, psychological evaluations, supporting individuals on the autism spectrum, the interaction between mental health and medical issues, and working with Spanish-speaking families. Brett will be joining Paul Day, BCBA, and Emily Sagendorf, BCBA, on SEDC's Mental and Behavioral Health Team. To contact Brett please email him at bretts@sedck12.org

SMARTER TEACHING



CHIPS & DOCS

Smart chips is a new feature that has been added to Google Docs. With smart chips, you can embed Google products like docs, slides, sheets, and drawings right into your doc. You can also "chip" videos that live in your drive or from the share links on Youtube!

In addition to embedding these materials in your docs, you also have the ability to add dates, calendar events or even create a calendar invite right on the fly.

In the past, you could accomplish this with hyperlinks but with smart chips, it gives a nicer visual feel and your collaborators can see the type of content you have linked rather than just clicking on a word that is hyperlinked. When someone mouses over the smart chip, it gives a preview of the content you have chipped, let's them know who owns the content, and reminds you to alter your share settings on the original content if you have not done so already.



To add a smart chip to a document, type the @ sign and begin to type the title of the material you want to pull in from your Drive. Docs will then prompt you to hit tab to turn the URL link into a smart chip. Use the QR code to watch a short video on how to use Smart Chips. Taken from edtechawesomeness.com

SUU STEM ACTION CENTER

FREE ONLINE
STEM
SOU STEM CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING
HOMWORK HELP
Mondays - Thursday 4 - 8 PM
K-12 after school
math and science
help from SUU tutors
To sign up email stem@suu.edu
or visit suu.edu/stem

Southern Utah University is one of SEDC's many great partners. The SUU STEM Center for Teaching and Learning has also partnered with SEDC to provide great resources to schools in Utah's Southwest Region. Since its founding in 2014, the Southern Utah University STEM Center for Teaching and Learning has been committed to bringing STEM to southern Utah through outreach events, professional development, and high-quality STEM programming

The SUU STEM Center offers a STEM Resource library that is home to over 1,000 fun and interactive educational tools and consumable materials to help teachers integrate STEM in K-12 classrooms without any cost to the teacher or school. The items are available to be checked out online and will be delivered by the SUU STEM Center Team or SEDC.

Free Virtual Tutoring is another service provided by the SUU STEM Center. Students can make appointments to get after-school help with math or science homework. Students interact with adult tutors from SUU that have been screened for safety. This free services is available Monday-Thursday from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Please check out all that the SUU STEM Center has to offer by visiting suu.edu/stem.