

UNIT Title: Understanding Executive Functioning skills for project development.

Designer: Stablein

Purpose: Teach teachers how to identify and implement EF skills usage in the classroom.

Seat-time: 2 Hrs

Context: This is an instructional session guided by an instructor to support teachers at a local high school that focuses on project-based learning. Students lack executive functioning skills to create and complete rigorous projects for independent learning. Teachers have not integrated a review of Executive Functioning Skills and tools into the classroom. Teachers are not connecting skills to students' needs. A tool to evaluate Executive Functioning skills was developed between the instructional designer and one of the teachers at this school who is certified in ELA and Special Education. This tool will help teachers manage EF skill development. Teachers and students work together as co-developers of learning. There have been gaps in students completing rigorous projects. Teachers will learn how to use the evaluation tool with students, and which EF skills need development to complete rigorous projects. This instruction will include knowledge checks, discussion, and team-based learning.

Target Audience: The target audience are teachers at a local high school that focuses on project-based learning. Project-based learning requires independent learning skills with an emphasis on executive functioning skills. Teachers must be able to identify which executive functioning skills students lack and develop personalized plans for students to build these skills. The teachers are familiar with project-based learning and have been in their role for many years ranging from 2 to 17.

Expected UNIT outcomes:

Teachers will be able to identify Executive Functioning Skills that are needed to complete rigorous student led projects.
Teachers will evaluate past student work to identify Executive Functioning Skills gaps.
Teachers will know how to use the Executive Functioning Skills evaluation tool.
Teachers will feel confident building Executive Functioning Skills with students.

Overview: The 2-hour session will include a knowledge check on what teachers already know about Executive Functioning Skills. An introduction to Executive Functioning Skills will provide an opportunity for teachers to compare what they know with their own knowledge gaps. These skills will be clearly outlined using various resources. Teachers will engage in an activity where they evaluate past student work together to identify where Executive Functioning Skills were needed. Teachers will then learn how to use an Executive Functioning Skills evaluation tool that was developed with a staff member at the school, to be used on individual students to determine which skills students need to develop. Teachers will be introduced to a multiple tools to assist with EF Skill functioning, and will work together to build their own tool for students.