TEACHERS AS INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS

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How do teachers become instructional leaders? What are the characteristics of an instructional leader?

According to Cotton (2003), effective instructional leaders are those who intensively involved in curricular and instructional issues that directly affect students' performance. Indeed, teachers can become instructional leaders in many possible ways. One way to do this is to facilitate instruction given to the students by simplifying the direction. An example of it can be seen during group activities. Sometimes, students get confused about too many instructions when they are working in a group. Teachers have to be specific on the instruction they give in each group so that members can continuously work on a task. In this way, students can finish the activity with full understanding.

Teachers can also become instructional leaders by way of organizing school activities that showcase students' competencies and potentials. Teachers can lead the school to organize programs that will encourage learners to participate and display their knowledge, skills, and talents. In this way, teachers can help learners express their ideas and thoughts. Another possible way of becoming an instructional leader is by helping students with learning difficulty. The ability of the students to cope with the lesson sometimes hinders their acquisition of knowledge. Teachers can help these students by guiding them on the lessons that they cannot easily comprehend. They can conduct remediation to decrease students' difficulty. In addition, teachers can also give more exercises for the students to work on and check to see if they were able to master the skill. In this manner, teachers can support students to learn.
Additionally, teachers can become instructional leaders in the eyes of their co-teachers. How is it possible? They can mentor another teacher. Newly hired teachers need someone who can exhibit exemplary performance to mirror the qualities of effective teachers, thus experienced teachers can become instructional leaders. Experienced teachers can help neophyte teachers in the preparation of lesson plan/log. Furthermore, they can help their co-teachers in presenting lessons by demonstrating how to teach learners using varied teaching strategies. They can also share the best practices that they are using inside the classroom that can be adapted by the novice teachers. In this way, teachers can help their co-teachers in the delivery of knowledge and skills among their learners. It can also help these teachers to facilitate the teaching and learning process which is important in education.

All teachers can become instructional leaders for their students as long as they put enough effort to assist students in learning new things and ideas, provide students activities that display their knowledge and skills, and give tasks that support their learning. In the same way, teachers can also become instructional leaders for their co-teachers as they establish standards when it comes to performance and delivery of lessons.

References: