

November 2023

How to be an “A” school:

Teach to mastery every OAS objective



by Jan Barrick, Alpha Plus CEO

Teaching to mastery is a process. Teaching the Oklahoma Academic Standards (OAS) to mastery is the key to student success in your school. Follow these steps and your students will be on the way to an “A.”

1. PLAN! Evaluate the objective you must teach and the assessments you will use to determine if students have mastered the content. Plan your lessons to ensure instruction is aligned to the OAS.

- Spend time on the vocabulary and verbiage used in OAS objective descriptions.
- Teach students how to find the BEST answer (the most plausible) from among choices given.

2. TEACH! Use the essential elements of a lesson, which are incorporated into *Success with OAS* books:

- Prepare an anticipatory set (“Real World Connections”) to get students interested in the content, activate prior knowledge, and ready to learn something new.
- Model each lesson by showing students how to perform a skill while describing the rationale behind each step. This gives students visual and verbal examples of what is expected.
- Use the Guided Practice for discussion and provide opportunities for students to perform hands-on tasks in class and to write about what they are learning.
- Assign Independent Practice and then review the content along with prior, related content in class discussion or activities.
- Have students complete Continuous Practice in class before or after assigning the applicable formative assessment.

DATA SNAPSHOT: Nov. 11, 2022

Averages from 108 schools using Alpha Plus Online:

- 29 OAS Objectives to be assessed by Spring Break
- 7 formative quizzes completed so far
- 60% of students proficient

Averages from 37 top-performing schools:

- 10 formative quizzes completed
- 82% of students proficient
- Best: 95% proficiency after 12 formative tests

3. USE THE DATA IN NEXT STEPS! If only half of the class is proficient on Independent Practice, use additional resources to re-teach the objective before assigning the formative quiz.

- Evaluate formative results in the Objective Accountability Graph; if 70% of students were not proficient, re-teach the objective.
- Plan remediation for students not proficient and re-assess them before the next summative assessment.
- From the Item Response Report, evaluate student answers. If most students selected the same wrong answer, use the question (online under Classroom > Review Test) for class discussion of why that was not the best answer.

Since not all students learn in the same way or on the same day or even in the same year, re-teaching and remediation should be the norm.

It is not too late to start teaching and assessing in alignment with OAS! The more times you do it, the better you will get at teaching to mastery every OAS objective.

Next month: How to measure growth and identify learning gaps using midyear summative (B) data.

Let us know how we can help!

~ CEO Jan Barrick and the Alpha Plus Team

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