

The Learning Center, a Multi-Tiered System of Support

Ross School District

Ross School

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*The Learning Center teaches access strategies
and provides intensive intervention for all learners.*

The purpose of the learning center is to teach access strategies and provide intensive intervention through differentiated activities, facilitated centers, integrated technology, and enrichment centers. What traditionally has been a “waiting to fail” model in the way schools provided access to the support services for their struggling learners, the Ross School learning center recognizes the benefit of early and targeted intervention before repeated failure is experienced. Ross School noted a trend that some of its high achieving students were not making the expected rate of growth, suggesting their unique learning needs were not being met.

As a result, Ross School developed the learning center- a dynamic, flexible setting that provides opportunities for students to receive short and long-term interventions by receiving supplemental instruction in small group settings in and out of their home classroom. A comprehensive schedule was created where students were grouped based on skill building areas and less so on compartmentalized labels. Further, with a focus on early intervention, students in the primary grades were provided with targeted intervention in an effort to curb the need for more intensive services later on. “Enrichment groups” were formed offering cross-content and project-based learning opportunities for those students who had mastered the grade level curriculum.

This learning center model optimizes student success serving more students by using the resources that already existed differently. By definition, the learning center is a multi-tiered model of service delivery leading to increased access and achievement of students sidelined by the core curriculum. Learning specialist teachers target specific areas of student need or provide support to those students who exhibit little to no progress despite high-quality, standard-based core classroom instruction.

