

## Instructional Coaching: Getting to Know the Territory

Use the following questions to better understand the nature of the school and the needs of the teachers as you (an Instructional Coach) start to plan your sessions (modified from Eisenberg, Eisenberg, & Charner, 2017):

### School demographics

How is the student population composed according to grades, gender, and socioeconomic status? And what percentage of students are economically disadvantaged, etc.?

### Student performance

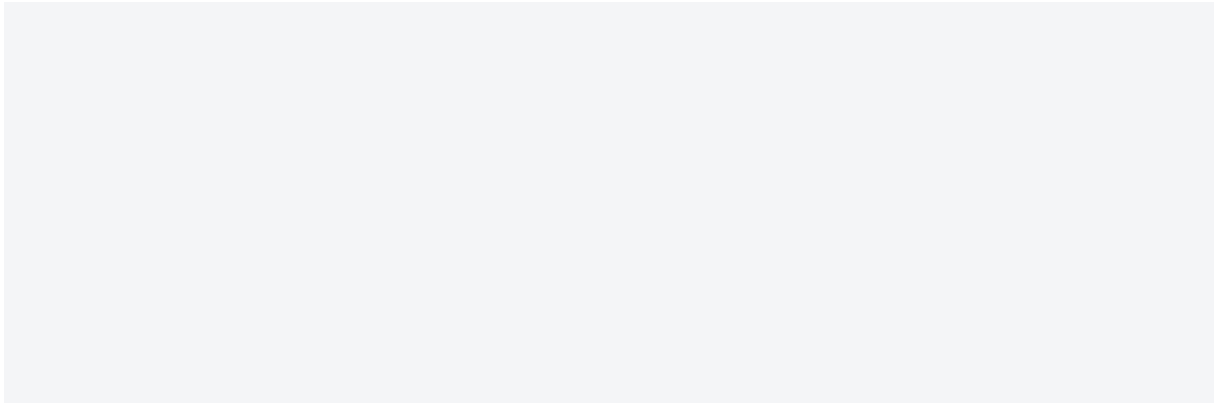
How have student performances on standardized tests evolved over the past three years, considering factors such as grade, gender, and socioeconomic status?

### School mission

What is the school's mission, and how can instructional coaching support it?

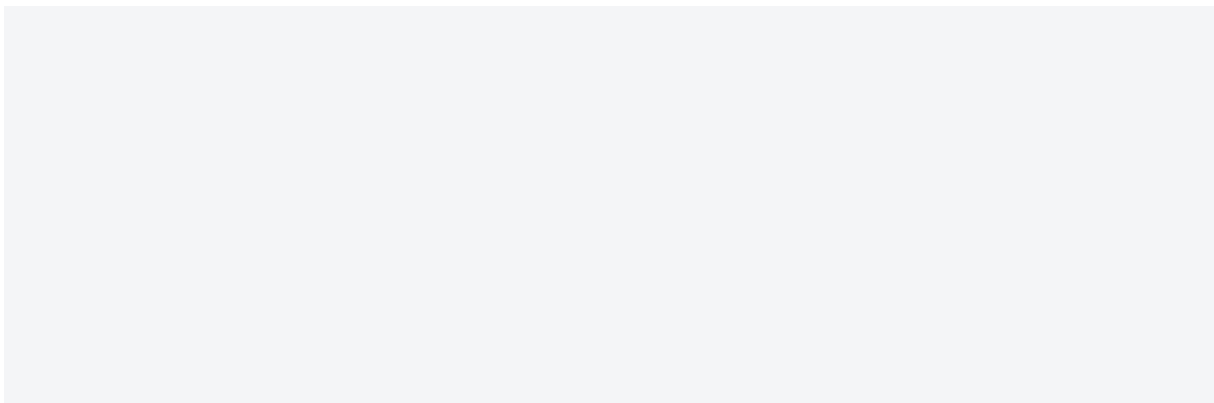
**School improvement plan**

How can the plan help identify priorities for instructional coaching?



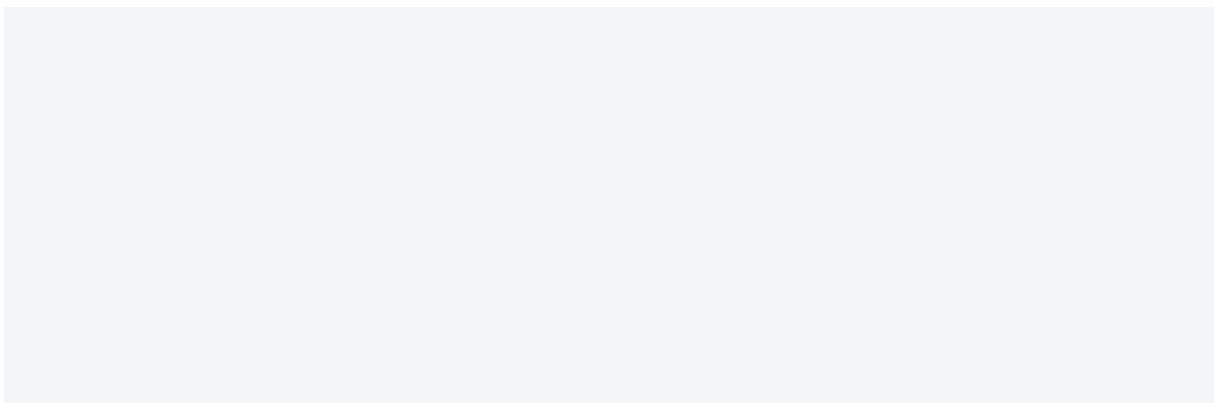
**Professional development activities**

What school-based professional development activities have occurred over the past two years? Are there existing professional learning communities, and if so, how do they operate?



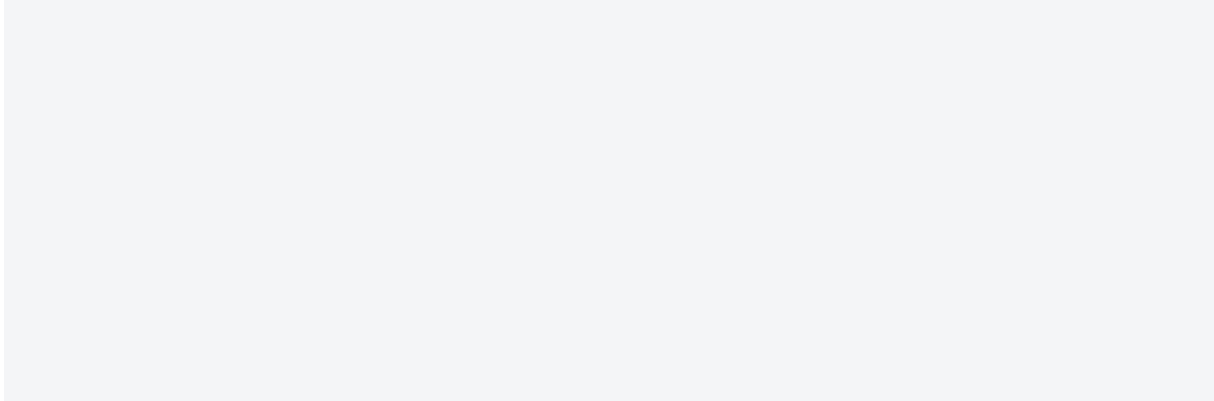
**School leadership and teaching staff**

What are the staff's backgrounds, including their experience in teaching and leadership roles, both in general and at the current school?



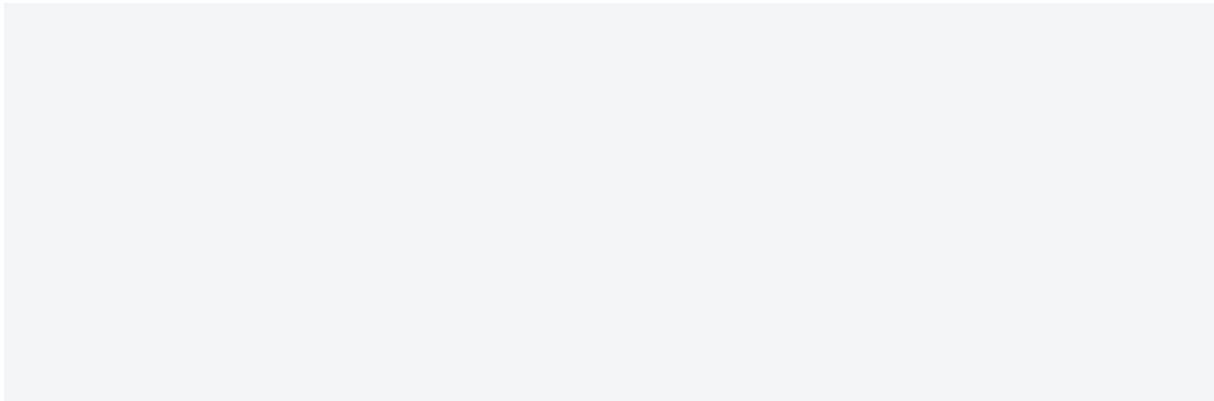
**Staff meetings**

How do staff members meet (e.g., in departments, grade-level, or interdisciplinary learning communities), and how often?



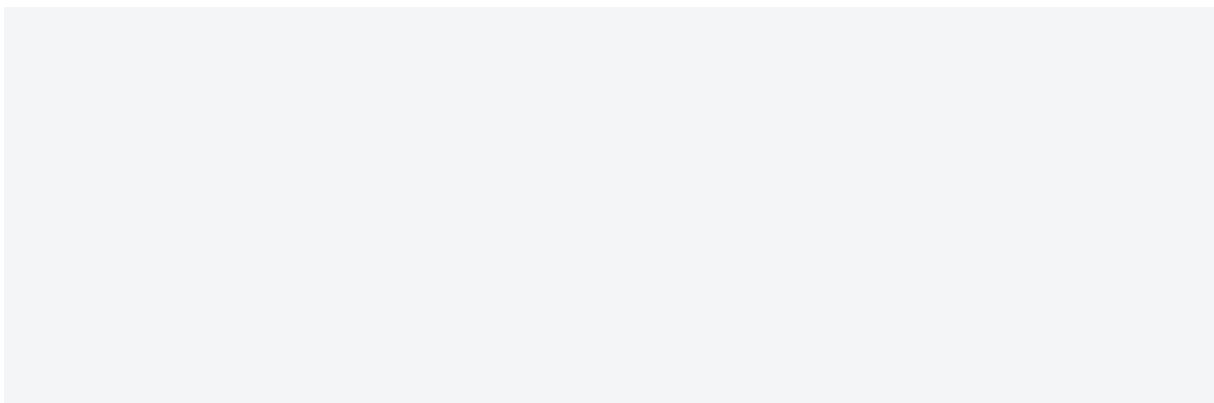
**Data usage by staff**

How do teachers access and utilize classroom and school-wide data? And what is the school-wide plan for data analysis and application?



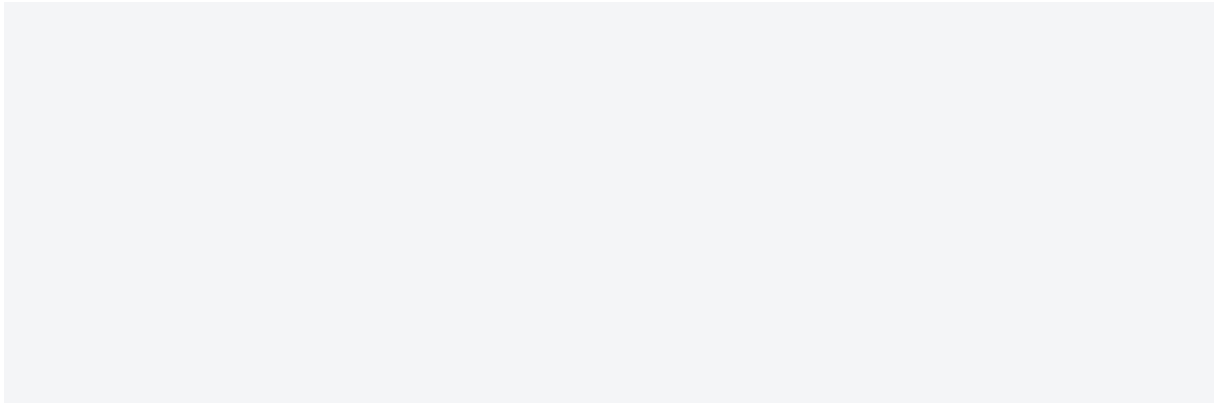
**Staff approach to literacy**

What is the school's chosen literacy model? And how familiar are teachers with this model?



### Staff views of instructional coaching

What do staff know about the instructional coaching model that is being implemented?



### References

- Eisenberg, E. B., Eisenberg, B., P., Medrich, E. A., & Charner, I. (2017). *Instructional coaching in action: An integrated approach that transforms thinking, practice, and schools*. ASCD Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.