THE EDUCATION FUND

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2018-2019

Ideas with IMPACT

idea packet

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ASSURANT

Get on the Ball!

Get On The Ball!!

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Table of Contents

- Goals and Objectives……3
- Florida Standards……4-5
- Course Outline/Overview……6
- Introduction…….....7
- Implementation……8
- Funding…….....9
- Examples of Seating Arrangements….10
- Activities……11-13
- Resources……..14-17
- References……18

Goals and Objectives

* To expose students to a selection of flexible seating arrangements in order to promote academic accomplishments

*to increase the levels of students' attention span

*Improve their quality of work and levels of involvement during lessons

* improve students' handwriting and listening skills

*teach interpersonal skills, decision-making and self-awareness.

*increases positive and engaged behavior

* improve visual skills for focusing, tracking, and scanning during reading

* promotes jaw stability through improved postural control which helps with pronunciation of words

Florida Standards

LAFS.1.SL.1.1 Collaborative Conversation
The students will: participate in a collaborative conversation with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers.

LAFS.1.W.2.6
With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

LAFS.1.L.1.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

LAFS.1.RF.3.3 Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

LAFS.1.SL.2.6 Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation.

LAFS.2.RF.4.4 Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

PE.1.R.5.3 Demonstrate consideration of others while participating in physical activity.

PE.1.M.1.1 Travel using various locomotor skills while changing directions, pathways and speeds.

PE.1.R.6.1 Identify physical-activity preferences.

SS.1.C.1.1 Explain the purpose of rules and laws in the school and community.

SS.1.C.3.1 Explain how decisions can be made or how conflicts might be resolved in fair and just ways.

Course Outline/Overview

The purpose of this project is to guide teachers on how to implement flexible seating within their classrooms. It is meant to encourage teachers to implement a nontraditional seating arrangement in their classrooms in order to promote academic success, healthier lifestyle and positive behavior. In this project, students are offered the option of deciding their own seating arrangement on a daily basis.

"If we truly want to prepare our students for the real world, we need to put them in responsive, dynamic environments that reflect life outside of a traditional classroom. And what's that life outside like? Full of choices, where adults are responsible for their own learning. As a college student visiting my classroom once said, "It's like you're treating them like little adults." And as my teaching has changed, my classroom design needed to change right along with it."

- Kayla Delzer, *Why Flexible Seating?*

What is Flexible Seating?

A classroom with flexible seating arrangements gives students the option of selecting a seating arrangement that is suitable to their needs. Flexible seating replaces traditional seating arrangements with nontraditional arrangements, such as balance balls and wobble chairs. It allows students the freedom to wobble, rock, bounce, lean or stand. This process increases oxygen flow to the brain, blood flow and core strength. It keeps our young minds focused and alert. Higher academic performance, better health and improved behavior have all been linked to physical activity incorporated through the use of flexible seating.

Nontraditional seating arrangements promote ownership over space and supplies. Flexible seating encourages students to share both. It encourages a sense of community. It allows students the ease to work in small groups, whole-group or in pairs without the burden of moving heavy desks or tables.

This type of seating arrangement allows students to be more comfortable, focused and motivated. Traditional seating arrangements have become simply boring. Flexible seating has allowed students to become involved in an experience that requires students to master skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, creativity, and responsibility.

Implementation of Flexible Seating

Before You Begin

First, discuss your plan of implementation with your administrator. You will need their approval and support.

Classroom Arrangement

Evaluate the size of your classroom. This will determine what seating arrangements you can use within your classroom. You should know how each piece of flexible seating will work within the plan of your classroom before you buy anything. Some furniture, such as desks and whole group tables you should keep in your classroom. You may want to think about where you would like your students to keep their materials and if supplies will be community supplies or not.

The flexible seating options I chose for students allow for them to move their seating to where they are wanting or needing to work with their group members. Our classroom environment allows us to easily and seamlessly collaborate.

Classroom Management

A strong classroom management plan is essential for this to work successfully. Some anchor charts reminding students of the rules and expectations are helpful tools. You may create these charts along with your students.

A flexible seating student contract is another way to make your students accountable. You should also send a letter home informing your parents of your seating arrangements.

You must introduce one type of seating at a time. You do not want to overwhelm your students. I think this is an important step in the process. Each student must use each type of seating several times.

You have to let your students experience each type of flexible seating, one at a time and then understand how it's works.

Enforce your rules. Don't forget to be firm, be consistent, and be fair. You will have to give your students a chance to prove themselves.

Funding

There are several ways to fund your classroom arrangements.

*Apply for an Adaptor Grant at www.educationfund.org

- Donors Choose
- Ask family and friends for donations
- Search through garage sales and thrift shops
- .If your school has a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) you can submit a request for items.
- Dollar Tree, Target and Wal-Mart has many affordable seating arrangements.
- Websites such as Offer Up, Let Go and eBay.
- Look at donation centers such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army, Facebook Marketplace/Craigslist

Examples of Seating Arrangements

Balance balls

Rocker chairs

Wobble chairs

lap desks

Stools

peanut balls

Balance discs

bean bag chairs

FLEXIBLE SEATING

Lesson Plan

SS.1.C.1.1 Explain the purpose of rules and laws in the school and community.

Objective: Students will write and illustrate a flip book about rules and responsibilities that they are to follow during flexible seating.

Materials:
Promethean board
Flip books
crayons/colored pencils
anchor charts

<u>Day 1</u>

Instructions:

Share pictures/videos of classrooms with flexible seating.

Create an anchor chart to guide your students.

Discuss each of the rules.

Give examples of what each rule means exactly.

Introduce the seating arrangements in your classroom.

Discuss the rules for each seating arrangement.

Day 2

Introduce and explain the following vocabulary:

*smart seat- is a seat that allows you to do your work to the best of your ability.

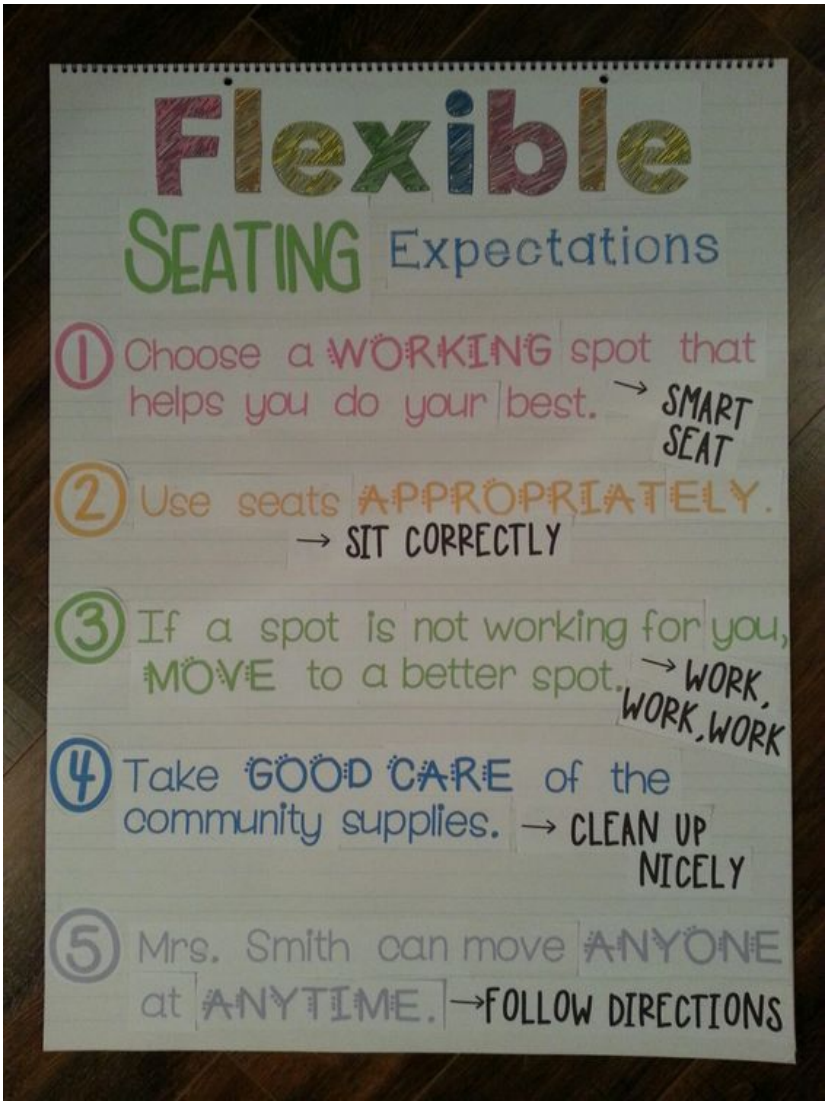
*options-something that you may pick or choose

*community supplies-supplies to be shared by students in class

*privilege- a special right or benefit given to a person.

*contract-an agreement between two or more people

Students will create a flip book. They will write and illustrate each rule.



After each child has completed their flip book, have read and sign the Flexible Seating contract. Review the rules frequently and when necessary.

Flexible Seating Contract

I, _____, (student's name) promise to use classroom seating options as they are designed to be used. Each day I will make a responsible choice about my seating location.

I understand that our flexible seating arrangement materials are here to help me complete my work to the best of my ability. I will use the materials as instructed by my teacher.

If _____ (my teacher) decides that I am not using my flexible seating space correctly, he/she can move my working space to a new location.

If I have any questions or concerns, I will ask my teacher.

Name _____

Date_____

Flexible Seating

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year our classroom will use flexible seating. This means there will be various seating choices available to all the students. They will also have the option of sitting by themselves or with groups throughout the day. Studies show that flexible seating is beneficial to students for many reasons. For example, some of our seats move which allow students to get extra exercise. Many students also have improved focus while moving. Your child will also have an opportunity to work and collaborate with different classmates throughout the day. If your child prefers a traditional desk with a traditional chair, that option will still be available to them. We are so excited for a great year of flexible seating! Please turn the page for additional information.

Sincerely,

Asientos Flexibles

Queridos Padres/Guardianas,

Este año nuestra clase utilizara asientos flexibles. Esto significa que todos los estudiantes tendrán varias opciones de asientos disponibles. También tendrán la opción de sentarse solos o en grupos durante el día. Los estudios echo en universidades demuestran que los asientos flexibles son beneficiales para los estudiantes por muchas diferentes razones. Por ejemplo, algunos de nuestros asientos flexibles son móviles y esto les permite a los estudiantes obtener ejercicio adicional durante el día. Muchos estudiantes se pueden concentrar mejor al tener movimiento. Su niño/a también tendrá la oportunidad de trabajar y colaborar con sus compañeros durante el día. Si su hijo/a prefiere un escritorio tradicional con una silla tradicional, también estará a su disposición. ¡Estamos muy emocionados de tener un maravilloso año usando asientos flexibles!

Atentamente,

Flexible Seating *SUPPORTS*:

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Oxygen Flow to Brain
- Blood Flow
- Better Posture
- Core Strength
- Burning Calories
- Increasing Metabolism
- Engagement
- Focus
- Better Behavior
- Brain-Based Activities
- Student Choice
- Enhancing the Learning Process
- Long Term Memory
- Knowledge Acquisition
- Information Retention
- Higher Level Reasoning
- Development in Life and Work Skills
- Conflict Resolutions

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Apply for an Ideas with IMPACT Adapter Grant!

All Miami-Dade County public school teachers, media specialists, counselors, or assistant principals may request funds to implement any project idea, teaching strategy, or project from the 2018 Idea EXPO workshops and/or curriculum ideas profiled annually in the ***Ideas with IMPACT*** catalogs from 1990 to the current year, 2018-19. Most catalogs can be viewed on The Education Fund's website at educationfund.org under "Ideas with IMPACT Catalog Publications."

- Open to all K-12 M-DCPS teachers, counselors, media specialists
- Quick and easy reporting requirements
- Grants range from $150 - $400
- Grant recipients recognized at an Awards Reception

To apply, you must contact the teacher who developed the idea before submitting your application. Contact can be made by attending a workshop given by the Disseminator, communicating via email or telephone, by visiting the Disseminator in their classroom, or by having the Disseminator visit your classroom.

Project funds are to be spent within the current school year or an extension may be requested. An expense report with receipts is required by Monday, June 3, 2019.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
December 13, 2018

Apply online at educationfund.org

For more information, contact:
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