WESTBROOK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Educational Programs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
5:00 PM
Central Office (117 Stroudwater Street)

AGENDA

- Review of School Opening
  - Cell Phone Ban at Westbrook High School
  - Pre K
  - SIOP
- Special Education Program Review
- Service Requirement at Westbrook High School
- Ed Programs Committee Goals for the Year

SIOP in Westbrook

The Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP Model) is a research-based instructional framework designed to help educators integrate academic language development with grade-level content mastery. While created to directly support students developing English language proficiency, all learners benefit from this model by providing instructional practices that support language and literacy in all grade levels, among all students, across all content areas. It targets content and language objectives as a foundation for all learning. SIOP was developed by Drs. Jana Echevarria, Mary Ellen Vogt, and Deborah Short and has been used in schools across the country and in Maine.

The 8 Components of SIOP

The model is structured around 30 distinct features categorized into eight core planning and delivery components:



- **Lesson Preparation:** Clearly define and post content and language objectives (Learning Goals and Language Goals) for every lesson using appropriate supplementary materials.
- **Building Background:** Connect new concepts directly to students' prior experiences, background knowledge, and key vocabulary.

- **Comprehensible Input:** Adjust teacher speech, use clear modeling, and incorporate visual aids or gestures to make explanations understandable.
- **Strategies:** Provide scaffolding, support higher-order thinking, and teach students explicit learning strategies to foster independence.
- **Interaction:** Create frequent opportunities for structured peer-to-peer and student-to-teacher discussions to practice academic language.
- **Practice & Application:** Provide hands-on activities and meaningful group tasks where students can apply both content knowledge and literacy skills.
- **Lesson Delivery:** Pace the lesson appropriately, support the stated objectives, and keep student engagement high.
- **Review & Assessment:** Conduct frequent checks for understanding, provide regular feedback, and review key vocabulary and content objectives.

Implementation

In Westbrook, we are implementing the SIOP framework across the district over the next two years. We will study, implement, and refine one component at a time. This will provide for a deeper understanding pf each component, opportunities to practice each component in our classrooms, and support each other in aligning our instructional practices.

Year 1 (2026-27):
Lesson Preparation, Lesson Delivery, Building Background, Interaction

Year 2 (2027-28):
Comprehensible Input, Strategies, Practice and Application, Review and Assessment

Professional Development

Considerable time and resources are being used to implement SIOP. This is a major initiative. Professional Development has been held and more is planned over the next two years and beyond. Examples are:

- 60 teachers (in 2 summer cohorts of 30 teachers each) have participated in an institute facilitated by a SIOP professional developer.
- 30 administrators and instructional coaches have participated in a Leadership Professional Development Institute to support the implementation.
- Teachers will participate in a book study led by Community of Practice and Department Leaders about the foundational SIOP text as their Choice Learning time during Early Release Wednesdays every month.
- Professional Development Workshop Days will include SIOP topics
- SIOP will be a focus of In-Class Coaching Cycles with Instructional Coaches, Coaches' Corner publications, and Feature Teacher experiences.