



Friday Focus

Greenup County Schools

Is Your Classroom “Structured?”

Research shows that students in the cooperative learning classroom learn more, are more actively engaged, enjoy school more, and develop personal and social skills. Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures are step-by-step instructional strategies used to deliver instruction.

A cooperative learning structure:

1). Organizes classroom instruction

through the use of a strategy that describes how the teacher and students will interact with the curriculum. Structures are tools in the teachers toolbox. Without many tools, a teacher is ill-equipped to develop a



wide range of learning experiences for students.

2). Is content free and repeatable.

Structures are used to explore the curriculum, but are not tied to any specific content. A structure can be used over and over with slight changes or different content. We even brainstormed different ways to use structures in our classrooms during professional learning. Look at page 6.24 in the CL textbook for ideas of how to use structures in different settings or with different content.



3). Implements the basic principles of PIES.

Positive Interdependence, Individual Accountability, Equal Participation, and Simultaneous Interaction are the key principles to maximize student engagement.

When these four principles are in place, students experience academic and social gains.

Follow-up reminders for implementing cooperative learning in your classroom:

- ⇒ Arrange your room (text 8.13-8.14)
- ⇒ Form teams (text 7.5-7.9)
- ⇒ Management (text chapter 8)
- ⇒ Structures (text chapter 6)

Kagan Cooperative Learning. San Clemente, CA: Kagan Publishing, 2009.

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Upcoming Academy Dates:

11-7-16 Cooperative Learning PD at GCHS 8:30–3:45

Day 2 Elem–Stage Area

Day 2 MS–HS–Band Room

Day 5 Group in JROTC building

Extended Thought

[Kagan Club](#)

[What is Kagan?](#)

[Structures Part 1](#)

[Structures Part 2](#)



SHOUT OUTS!

The district would like to give a major Shout Out to two of our principals participating in the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) program this year. It is a leadership training program that is proven to raise student achievement in schools by transforming leadership and learning. NISL provides comprehensive and highly engaging training that prepares school leaders to succeed. **Aaron Collier and Chris Ailster** are currently participating in this leadership program at KEDC in Ashland. I commend these principals for committing the time and effort this program requires in order for them to grow as professionals and better serve our children. This program is 26 days of training, lots of additional reading and online work, as well as a cumulative action plan project. It is a demanding program for educational leaders who want to grow their skills and get results for their school. Mr. Smith, Dr. Baker, Kim Taylor, and I have already completed this training. Through a grant we have two principals this year and two next year who will participate in this national program. I never cease to be impressed by the dedication and hard work our GCSD staff gives on a daily basis in order to meet our vision of making our district–“*the gold standard in education, the foundation of our community.*” It takes all of us to make our team strong and our students successful in life beyond public school. Kudos Team Greenup for continuing to shine brightly!

-Superintendent Sherry Howley