

Andes Central School District



What is an instructional vision?

An instructional vision is a shared picture of what great teaching and learning should look like for all students. It helps teachers, students, and families work toward the same goals and ensures learning feels meaningful, personalized, and connected to our community. At Andes CSD, this vision is our guide for helping every student grow and thrive.

What is our instructional vision?

We invest in personalized student learning in and out of the classroom. Our dedicated educators leverage each student's strengths, empowering them to become lifelong learners and active community members. We prioritize collaboration, differentiation, and critical thinking to prepare students to pursue their passions, make a positive societal impact, and achieve future success.

A Message from the Andes CSD District Leadership Team

At Andes Central School, we are proud to be a small rural school with a big commitment to student success. The phrase "Small School with Big Impact" is our guiding ideal and purpose. Our focus is on building a robust, intentional curriculum that supports meaningful learning at every level. We believe that every student deserves not only academic challenge but also personal encouragement. That's why we work closely with families to provide thoughtful, hands-on support—ensuring that each child is known, valued, and guided to reach their full potential. Together, we're growing a learning community rooted in care, excellence, and connection.



BELIEF #1

Learning is Personal and Community- Centered

Best Practices for Instruction

The specific strategies align with the vision and beliefs informed by research

- Use flexible pace and path strategies to personalize instruction. This will allow students to work at their own level and ask for help when needed.
- Offer choice boards and playlists so students can determine how they engage with and demonstrate learning.
- Incorporate student-designed learning goals and reflection routines to help them visualize success.
- Connect learning to students' lives through relevant content and real-world projects tied to community interests.

What students should experience

Feel known and valued;
learning reflects personal
goals, interests, and
community ties

What teachers should do

Design learning that
adapts to individual pace,
path, and interests

What administration should model + support

Foster schedules,
staffing, and PD that
promote personalization
and belonging

BELIEF #2

Collaboration Strengthens Learning

Best Practices for Instruction

The specific strategies align with the vision and beliefs informed by research

- Design structured group activities with clearly defined roles to build collaborative skills and deepen understanding.
- Use peer feedback protocols and discussion-based routines (e.g., “See, Think, Wonder”) to encourage multiple perspectives and collective problem-solving.
- Include project-based tasks that require teamwork, creativity, and shared accountability.

What students should experience

Engage in meaningful
peer dialogue and
shared problem-solving

What teachers should do

Use structured protocols
for collaboration and
feedback

What administration should model + support

Create time and
structures for team
planning and cross-
disciplinary collaboration

BELIEF #3

Critical Thinking and Adaptability are Essential

Best Practices for Instruction

The specific strategies align with the vision and beliefs informed by research

- Engage students in thinking routines such as “Claim-Support-Question” and “I Used to Think, Now I Think” to build reasoning and adaptability.
- Use authentic tasks and games that challenge students to explore and apply ideas across disciplines.
- Integrate synthesis strategies in reading, writing, and content to deepen understanding and develop flexible thinking skills.

What students should experience

Tackle real-world problems, build resilience, and reflect on their thinking

What teachers should do

Implement inquiry-based learning and thinking routines

What administration should model + support

Highlight and support innovative instruction that emphasizes exploration

BELIEF #4

Engagement and Ownership Drive Success

Best Practices for Instruction

The specific strategies align with the vision and beliefs informed by research

- Encourage student-led decision-making during instruction, like choosing learning strategies or supports based on personal goals.
- Use goal-setting tools and trackers to support student accountability and motivation.
- Build in regular time for student reflection and celebration of growth, helping them take pride in their learning journey.

What students should experience

Set and monitor personal goals; choose how to demonstrate mastery

What teachers should do

Provide choices in learning tasks and create visible goal-setting systems

What administration should model + support

Expect and review evidence of student voice and ownership in classrooms

BELIEF #5

A Supportive, Inclusive Environment Fosters Growth

Best Practices for Instruction

The specific strategies align with the vision and beliefs informed by research

- Create space for low-stakes formative assessments to guide instruction, reduce pressure, and boost confidence.
- Honor student voice by including student-authored protocols or input on classroom norms and routines.
- Foster risk-taking and persistence through activities that balance independent and group work, preparing students for future academic and life challenges.

What students should experience

Take risks, ask questions, and persist through challenges in a safe space

What teachers should do

Cultivate strong relationships and create routines that promote equity and safety

What administration should model + support

Prioritize restorative practices, relationship-building, and inclusion in all school systems

HOW WE BUILT THE ANDES CSD INSTRUCTIONAL VISION

We didn't just write this vision overnight—it was shaped over time, with input from teachers, leaders, and staff. Here's a quick look at how we got here:

- **August 2024:** We kicked things off by getting clear on our goals and timeline.
- **September 2024:** We met virtually to start defining what great teaching and learning should look like in Andes.
- **November 2024:** We spent a full day together with students, teachers and staff, and leaders—talking, observing, and identifying what's working and what could be better.
- **March 2025:** We reviewed all the input and worked together to finalize the big ideas in our vision and instructional framework.
- **April 2025:** We're now planning how to bring this vision to life in classrooms every day.

