

To: Fresno Colleagues
From: Andy Platt and Caroline Tripp
Re: Advanced Preparation for Skillful Leader Training
June 3, 2008

We are looking forward to working with you over the next year to support your efforts to raise adult and student performance. In order to accelerate the summer learning we would like to ask you to do some preparatory reading in the new books you have received as well as some extracts from *Skillful Leader 1*.

Below we distinguish between **Core Reading** that is essential background and **Recommended Reading** for those who want to go beyond the basic assignments. When we ask you to read, we will distinguish between “skimming” for a quick overview and “active reading.” For active reading you will need to mark up the text with questions and comments, use tabs, write marginal connections you can make to your own work.

Finally, because we know how busy you are, we have included the reading for October for those who like to use the summer to get ahead

August Preparation

CORE READING

In *Skillful Leader II: Confronting Conditions That Undermine Learning (2008)*

Actively read Chapter 1 “Conditions Worth Changing”.

In *Skillful Teacher Building Your Teaching Skills (2008)*

Actively read Chap 1 Introduction and Chapter 2 Teacher Beliefs and skim the book for organization

In *Skillful Leader I: Confronting Mediocre Teaching (2000)*

Actively read Chapter 1 “Introduction” and the cases of Sally Friendly and Frank Steel.

These selections are available under Resources in the Fresno folder www.Ready-About.com (password “Fresno”)

RECOMMENDED READING

In *Skillful Leader II: Confronting Conditions That Undermine Learning (2008)*

Skim read Chapter 3 “Professional Communities and Mediocre Learning” to establish the role of groups in sustaining or confronting mediocre teaching. Skim through the chapter definitions in the preface and leaf through the pages to see what resources will help you in your work..

In *Skillful Teacher Building Your Teaching Skills (2008)*

Skim the Introduction to each major section: Management on p.17, Instruction on p. 159, Motivation on p. 257 and Curriculum p. 355. Pick and skim one chapter that captures your interest because it supports something you are focusing on in your school—or a place your school could grow.

Preparation for October

CORE READING

Skillful Teacher Building Your Teaching Skills (2008)

Actively read pp. 372-382 of the “Objectives” chapter in *The Skillful Teacher*. Make sure you can explain and distinguish between the different levels of thinking behind objectives presented in this selection.

Actively read pp. 161-173 of the “Clarity” chapter in *The Skillful Teacher*. Star practices that you think are widely understood and used in your school and put arrows next to practices that you think are missing or inconsistently applied.