

Tips to use the Lesson Planning Tool

www.achievethecore.org/lesson-planning-tool

Before using the Lesson Planning Tool, the teacher should choose the standard or cluster(s) of standards that the lesson is targeting. ELA teachers should also select the text addressed in the close-reading lesson.

Then as the teacher is designing or reviewing the lesson, she can use the tool to evaluate the degree of alignment present. Here are some additional tips for using the tool:

- Before beginning, the teacher may want to look at the questions in each module. One can “Download all the questions” to see everything at once.
- Begin with the first module “Planning a Standards-Aligned Lesson”.
- Once the teacher has completed the first module, the other modules allow one to go deeper into different aspects of the Shifts in planning. For close-reading lessons, complete the modules sequentially. For math, choose the modules most relevant to the content of the lesson.
- A teacher may start a lesson and return to it at any time. A lesson does not need to be completed in one sitting!
- Each module is designed to take approximately a planning period to complete. While a teacher does not have to answer every question or every section, the more a teacher completes, the more she will understand and begin to internalize what to look and plan for in aligned lessons.
- Need help? Each prompt in the tool has a “Need help?” link beneath it that leads to support and resources specific to that section and question.

References to Core Actions and indicators found in the Instructional Practice Guide: Coaching Tool can be found throughout the Lesson Planning Tool. Teachers using the lesson planning tool with a coach or colleague can use these references to more easily make connections between what Common Core-aligned content and practice has been planned and what is to be observed during classroom instruction.