**Word Walls**

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| Description of Practice (strategy, program, intervention): A word wall is a display area in the classroom devoted strictly to high-frequency vocabulary that will be used or is being used during the course of a particular unit of study. It can be utilized for any level of student, and across all content areas.  |

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| Intended Audience and Outcomes: Word walls are useful for cross-content teachers, and especially for ELLs as they provide direct instruction related to academic and content specific vocabulary. They are also an important tool for administrators who are observing classes, as they explicitly show the specific words and terms that students are being taught within the class. The expected outcome of the use of word walls is to build prior knowledge, and provide students with high frequency words that they will encounter, so as to better enable them to access the content.  |

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| Evidence that it works:Teachers at Lawrence High School use word walls at varying levels. Some teachers utilize word walls simply to display high frequency/domain specific vocabulary words that students will use in the class, while others take the word wall a step further and structure vocabulary related activities around the actual word wall. The latter approach is more effective in moving students towards proficiency in the content area, and in broadening the students’ vocabulary, as they are required to apply their knowledge of the meaning of the words in a more hands-on manner.  |