

# Imagine Prince George's County Public Charter Schools Instructional Model



The Imagine Foundations educational philosophy is grounded in the belief that, to help children thrive academically, learning must involve more than skill acquisition and standardized test scores. Our diversified, interdependent approach focuses on the individual child and provides an array of resources that each needs to learn, solve problems, and create new ideas. This series of posters reveals the foundations of our instructional model and how each supports the development of the whole child.

## **Dynamic leadership**

Imagine Foundations is distinctive in its philosophy of dynamic, decentralized leadership, where those who are closest to specific tasks or problems are best suited to come up with strategies and solutions. One of the most important operating principles of Imagine Foundations is that all employees must seek advice from a minimum of three qualified individuals before making important decisions. This allows decision-making to be shared and gives all personnel the opportunity to learn from and with each other.

## **Outstanding classroom instruction**

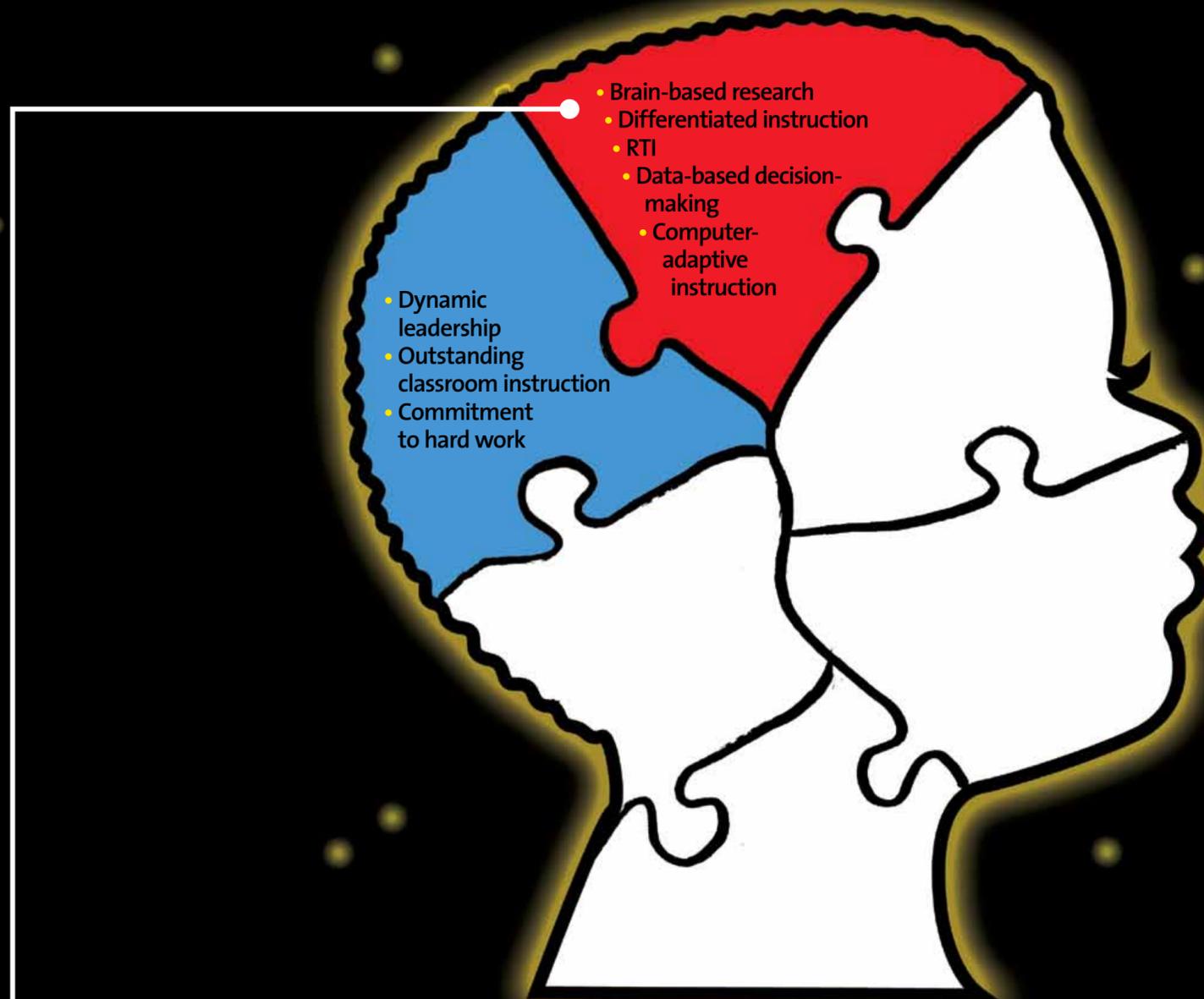
To create an effective, high-quality school, instructional methodologies must take into account various learning styles and be adjusted as needed to suit individual learners at a classroom level. The instructional methodologies employed at Imagine Foundations are carefully matched to our philosophy and the learning strategies needed to accomplish our mission.

## **Commitment to hard work**

Our goal is to create a challenging learning environment for our students. We believe that intelligence is malleable, and that through hard work and effective classroom instruction, students can acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful and responsible citizens. We don't limit the abilities of our students; rather, we help them learn all they can, do their very best, and enjoy discovering and understanding new things.

The Imagine Foundations Instructional Model was developed by William Hill, Executive Director, Prince George's County Imagine Schools.  
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## **Brain-based research**

Brain-based learning, an approach to instruction using neuroscience research, is based on current knowledge about the actual structure and function of the brain at varying developmental stages. By using the latest neural research, teachers can create “brain-friendly” educational techniques to provide a biologically driven framework for creating effective instruction.

## **Differentiated instruction**

We understand that each student has different learning needs and varying degrees of academic skill development. Thus, our program incorporates “differentiated instruction,” which requires teachers to tailor their lessons to students’ learning needs rather than expecting students to fit the curriculum. Our teachers constantly assess and adapt the instruction per child, based on individual needs and talents.

## **Response to intervention**

We utilize “Response to Intervention” (RTI) to provide early, effective assistance to children who have difficulty learning. RTI seeks to prevent failure through frequent progress measurement and intensive research-based instructional interventions. Our goal is to improve the academic performance and behavior of children who have difficulty learning.

## **Data-based decision-making**

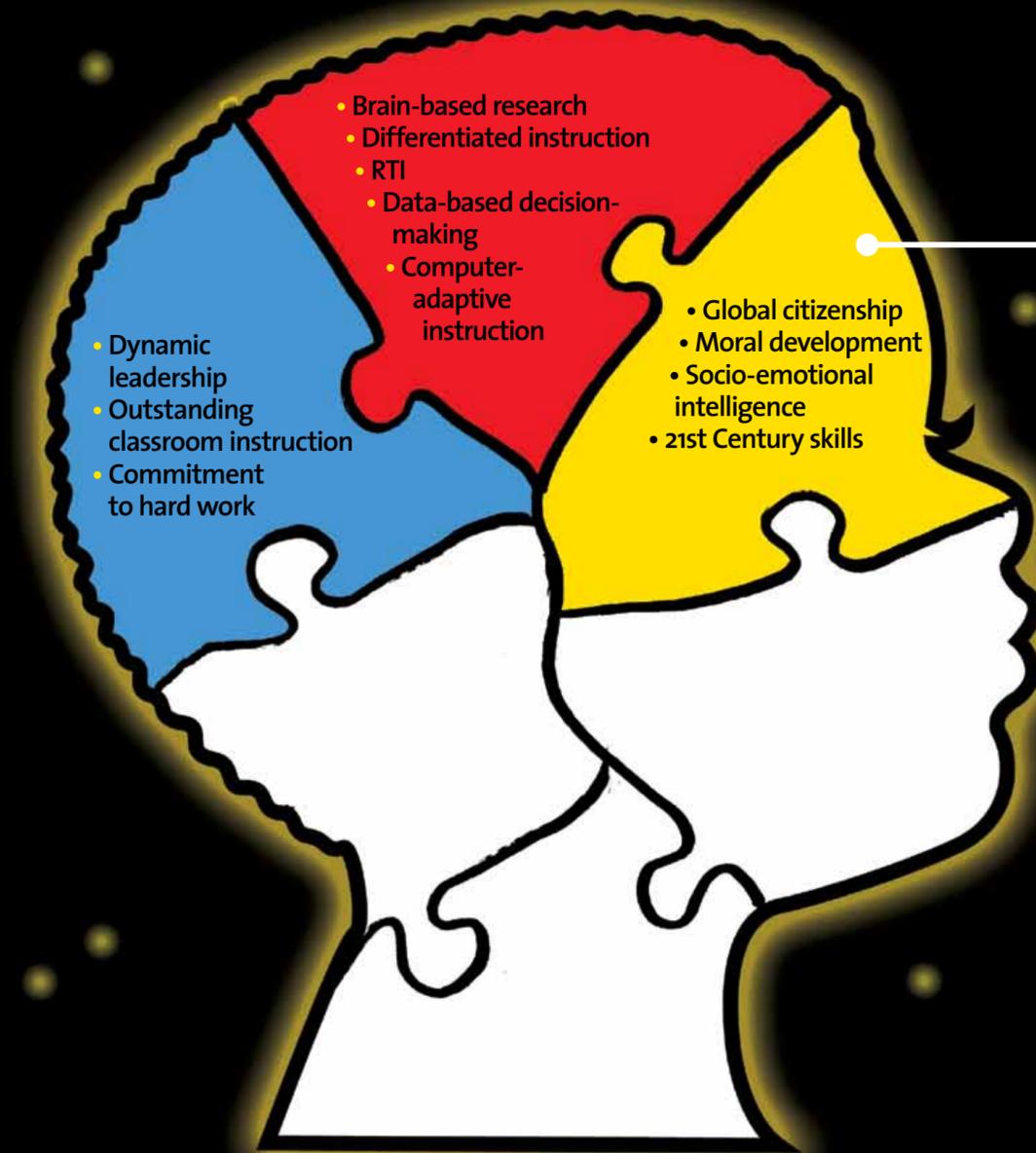
Decisions based on data help teachers create ideal learning conditions. Decisions can be made without collecting data systematically. However, a strategic decision-making process — such as analyzing assignment scores by summarizing them — can help teachers identify key variables related to teaching faster and more efficiently than other methods.

## **Computer-adaptive instruction**

By using computers as instructional tools, teachers can adapt the presentation of educational materials according to each student’s abilities. The goal is to allow electronic education to enhance student-teacher interactivity. Such a learning system transforms the learner from passive receptor of information to collaborator in the educational process.

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## **Global citizenship, moral development, and socio-emotional intelligence**

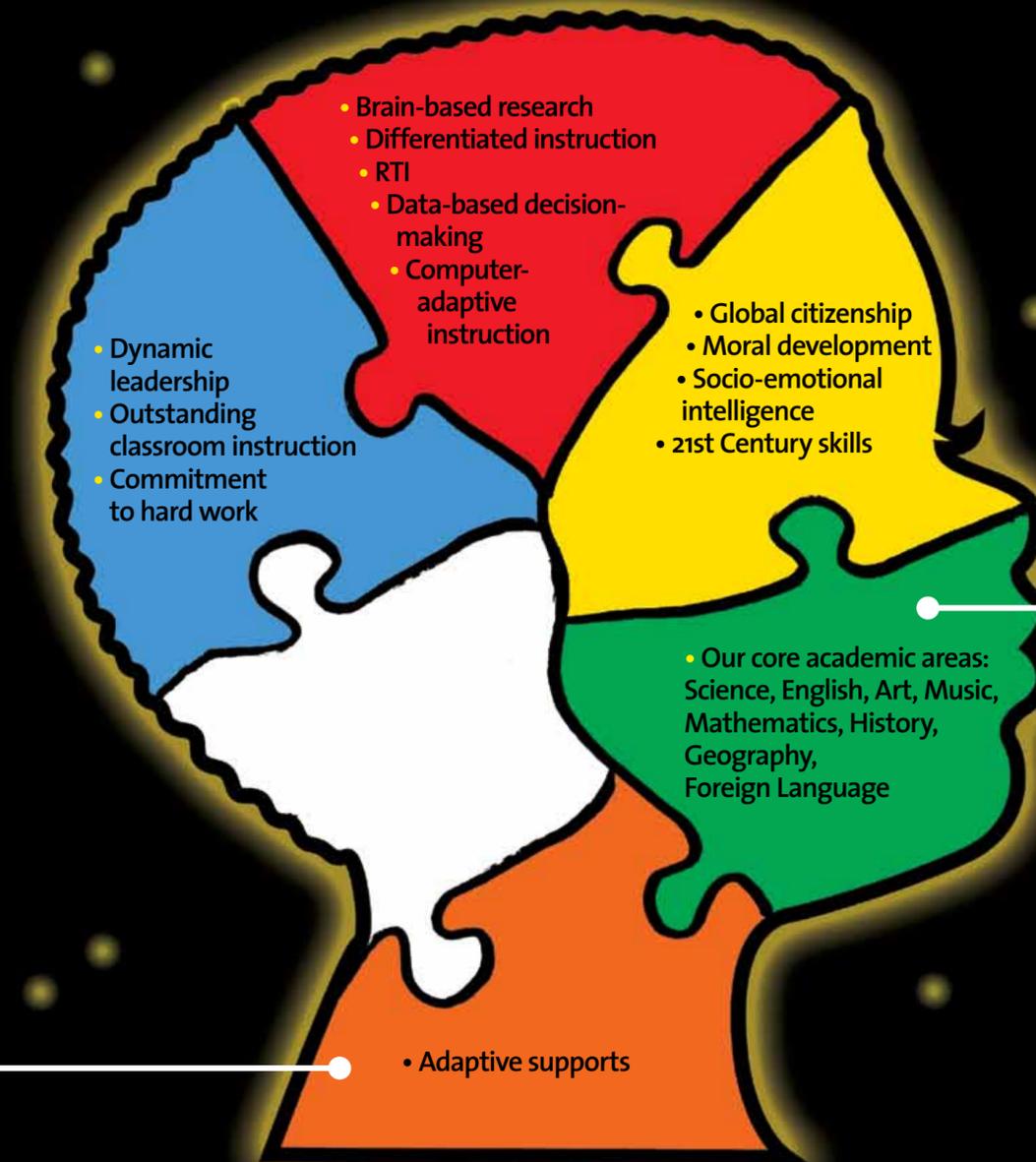
We believe that education and the development of positive character form the foundation for successful learning and, ultimately, the growth of decision-making skills, good behavior, and core values — such as citizenship and strong morals — that will assist each student in becoming a better person. We also seek to satisfy the socio-emotional and intellectual needs of students by building caring relationships with their teachers.

## **21st Century skills**

In an effort to prepare today's children for tomorrow's world, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills has developed tools and resources that fuse "the three Rs" with "the four Cs" (critical thinking and problem-solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation). These tools and resources are designed so that students can meet the challenges of the modern age.

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## Explicit content and standards for each core subject

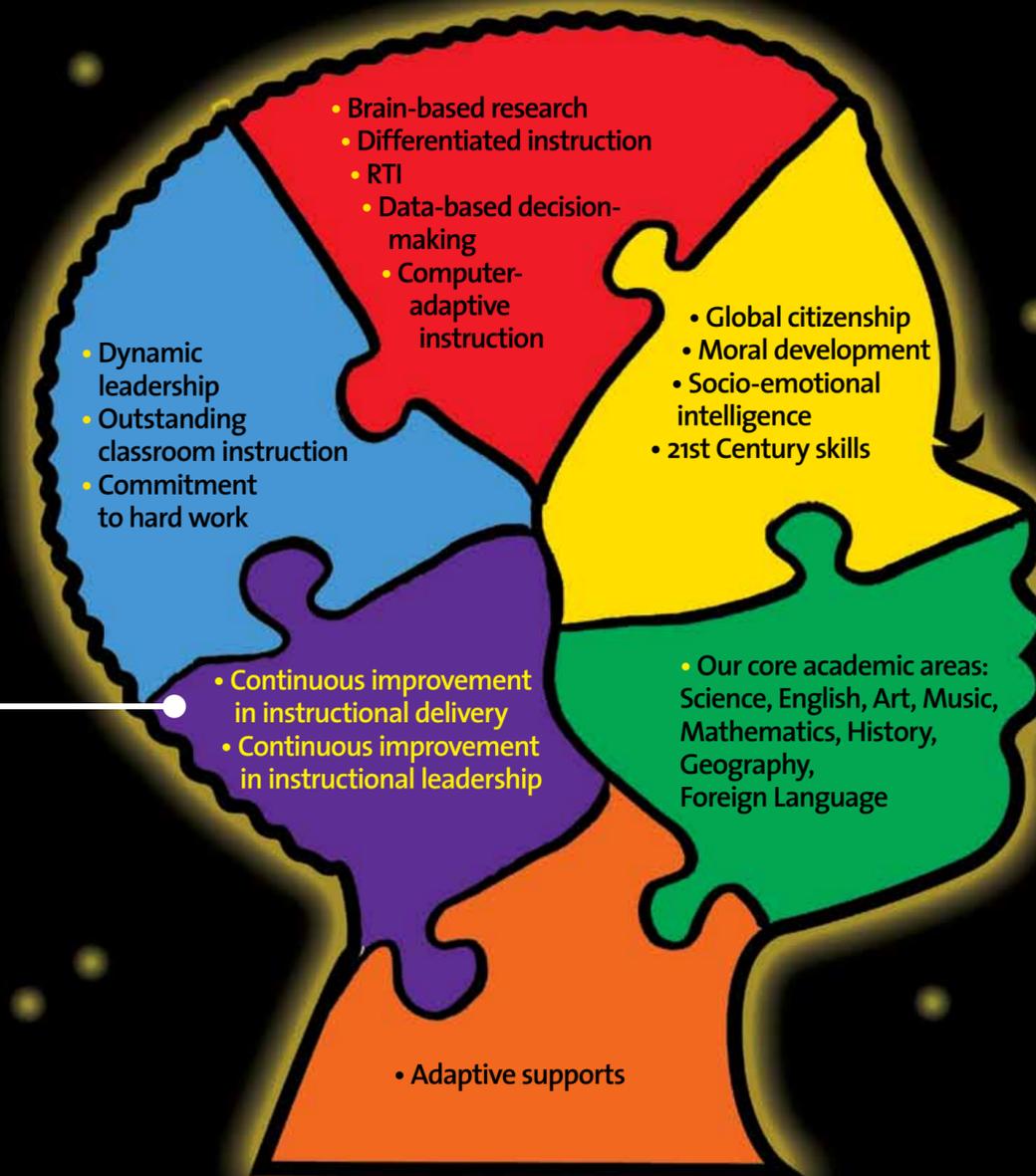
Imagine Foundations utilizes the Core Knowledge Sequence to provide content standards that will guide coherent instruction and encourage steady academic progress as children build their knowledge and skills from one year to the next. Our core academic areas are: Science, English, Art, Music, Mathematics, History, Geography, Foreign Language.

## Adaptive supports

We take a broad-stroke approach to education, one that emphasizes the needs of the whole child and not just his or her academic skills. As a result, we employ a basic support system that we may adapt to each child as an individual, as part of and apart from the classroom environment. For example, our staff is trained to determine if a change in a child's performance may be the result of external factors, such as parents who are divorcing, rather than specific abilities. If this is the case, we offer counseling or other support services to help make improvements.

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## Continuous improvement in instructional delivery and leadership

Effective teaching and learning are essential for a successful school. In order to ensure the effectiveness of its education program, a school must maintain the consistency of instructional delivery and make continuous improvements in the quality of its teaching staff. For instance, at Imagine Foundations we offer customized professional development opportunities for all teachers based on their essential specific needs.

## Who is Imagine Foundations?

Imagine Foundations Public Charter School is a member of Imagine Schools, a national organization that operates 73 public charter schools in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

Our mission is to develop dynamic individuals through hard work, academic achievement, and character education. Our vision is to create a school environment that helps students gain academic confidence, strong character, determination, and the academic skills necessary for entrance into university.

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