

## Top 10 Tips for Aligning After School with the Core Day

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From CALSERVES

1. **Get a Mentor Teacher:** Create a formal position in your program for a highly supportive core day teacher to work with you in developing relationships and getting the information that you need.
2. **Staff Observations:** If possible have staff observe in core day classrooms to build relationships and develop skills.
3. **Staff Development:** Attend as many staff development opportunities put on by the school as possible. It will support skill development, create a common language and build good will.
4. **Essential Standards:** Get a copy of the schools essential standards and integrate them into your activities.
5. **Common Instructional Strategies:** Find out what instructional strategies are being used school-wide and make a plan to train staff on how to utilize them. They must be manageable for your staff but if you can get teacher buy-in, they will often help with training.
6. **Acquire Pacing Guides:** Get a copy of pacing guides and talk with teachers to see if they are actually on pace!
7. **Attend Grade Level Meetings:** I know the timing can be challenging but grade level meetings are really worth it in the connections you build.
8. **Meet Regularly with the Principal:** The principal can unlock many doors and will almost certainly support your goals to align with core day instruction.
9. **Regular Communication Strategies:** Create strategies for regular communication with teachers. You can get feedback on what they are seeing work in terms of student progress as well as find out what they are working on.
10. **Make your Intentions Known:** Let the principal and influential teachers know that you are interested in aligning strategies that support student learning in both the core day and after school.