

# A Future Filled with UDL: One Middle School's Vision

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**Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** is an educational framework that is based on over thirty years of research in developmental psychology, neuroscience, computer science, architecture and learning science that guides the development of flexible learning environments by accommodating for learning preferences of each student. It provides a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials and assessments that work for all students by eliminating barriers from the beginning of the instructional planning process.

## GOAL

•To increase engagement of all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students by incorporating the principles of the Universal Design for Learning Framework across environments, materials, instruction and assessments

## Implementation

- Three 7th grade ELA Teachers
- Weekly planning, observations and coaching

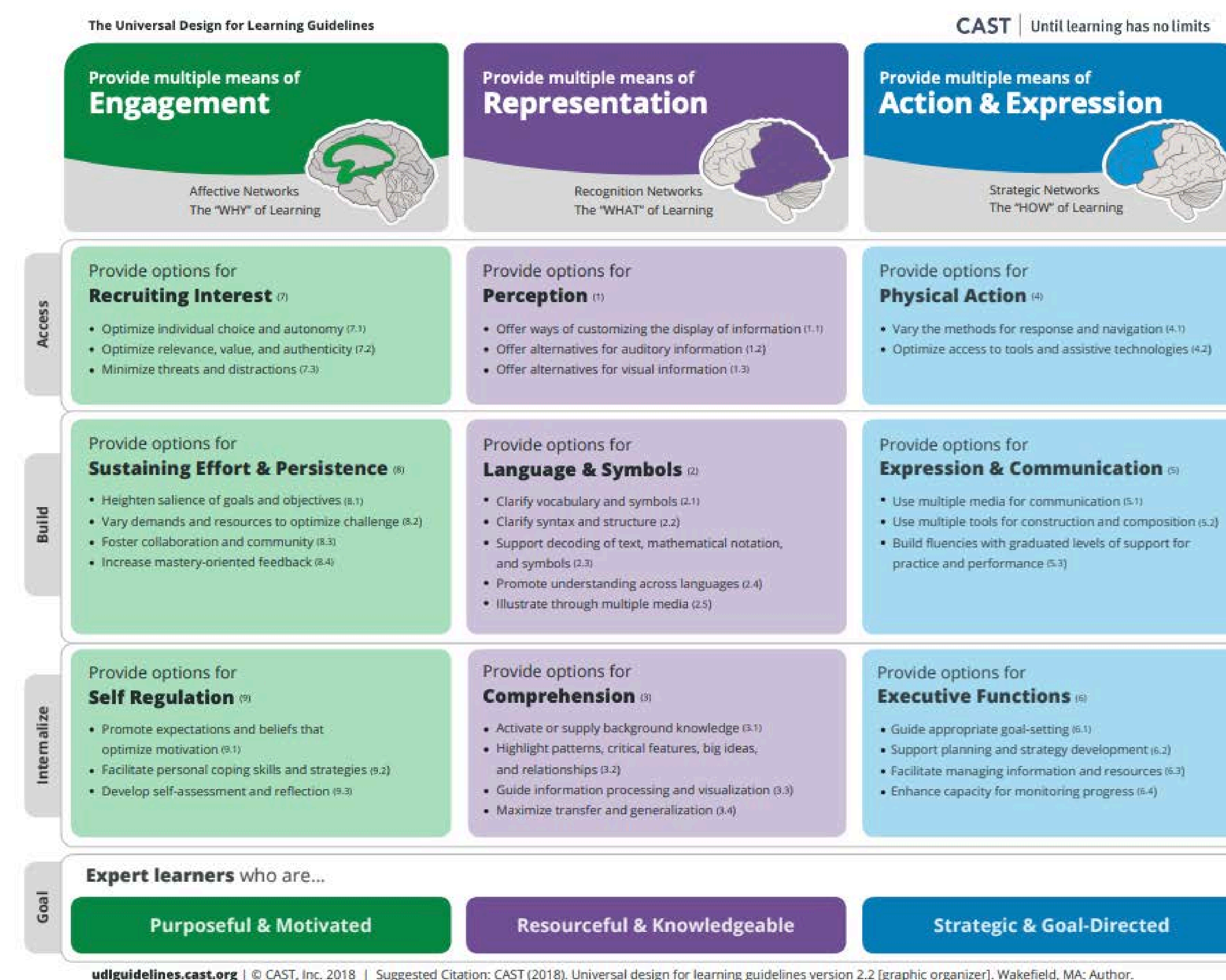
Pilot-Preparation

### Year One-Integration

- 9 ELA Teachers (6th-8th Grade)
- Monthly planning, observations and coaching

- 9 ELA and 8 math teachers
- Math instructional coach
- Monthly planning, observations and coaching

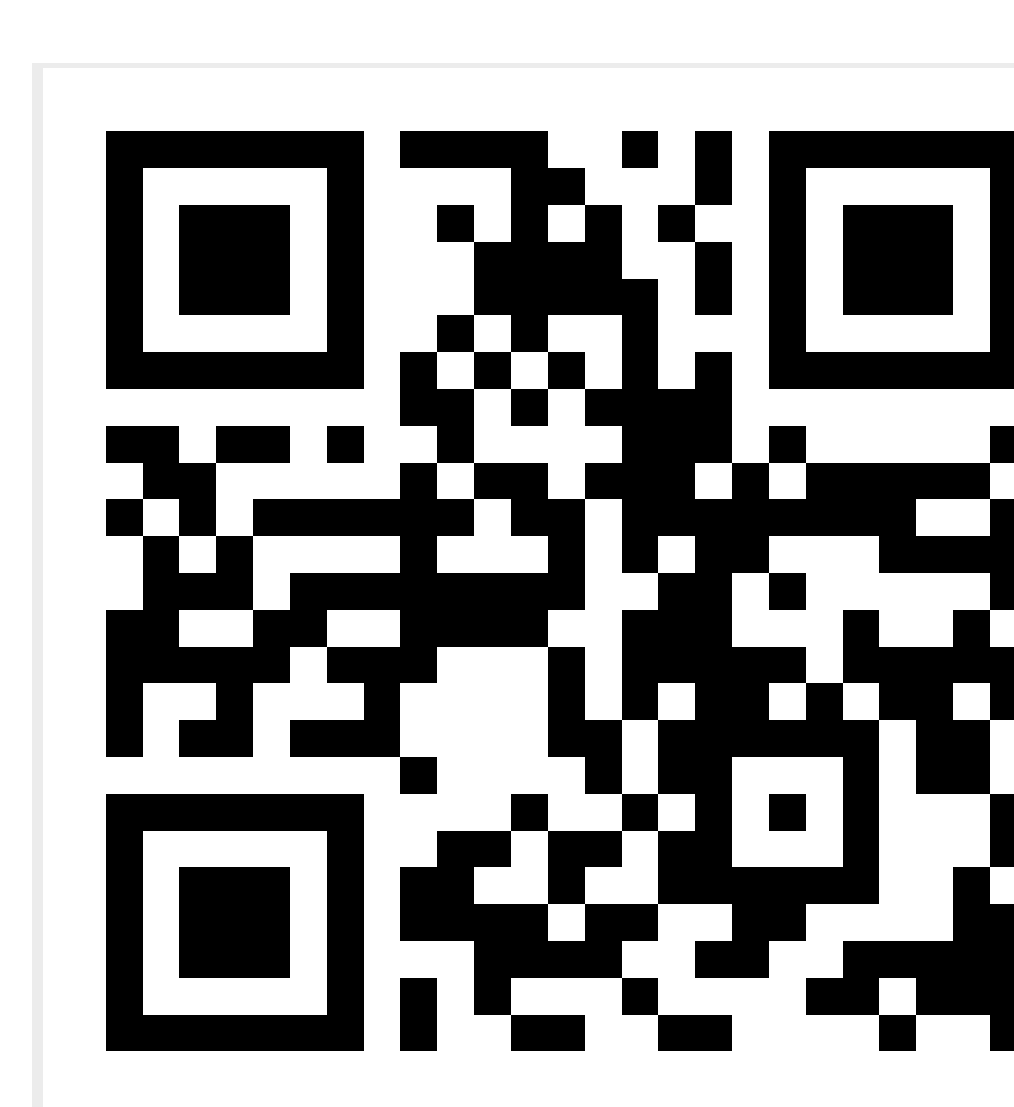
Year Two-Scaling



"I like the the reflective data used during the coaching sessions. It's helpful to address my areas of need in successfully meeting the needs of all learners."  
~Middle School Teacher

"My instruction has become more focused on student needs and barrier prevention, rather than curriculum and completion focus."  
~Middle School Teacher

## DATA ANALYSIS



<https://www.learningdesign.org/resource/future-filled-udl>

## Conclusions

- Collective efficacy must be addressed
- Professional development must be universally designed
- Administrative support is critical for implementation and capacity building (Scheduling support, access to instructional materials, and accountability, walk-throughs, school success plan, etc.)

## Capacity Building

The UDL Initiative has expanded in the Fall of 2019. A "coach-the-coach" approach to implementation has been utilized. All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade core academic teachers receive professional development that includes in-depth coaching support through building instructional coaches with the help of ACCESS Project instructional coaches. In addition, there is a strategic success goal focused on the area of Multiple Means of Engagement and professional development centered around this area.

### Areas of Focus

#### Coaching Instructional Coaches through a UDL Lens

- Monthly UDL Coaching PLC
- Monthly UDL Administration Team PLC
- Triannual calibration assistance with coaching cycles

#### Whole School Professional Development

- Whole staff Professional Development (Introduction and Advanced UDL through online modules)
- Monthly mini-professional developments focused on specific checkpoint identified during administration and coaching PLCs
- UDL Technical Assistance (UDL Tickets) – teacher request for help with lesson planning, environment or UDL 101
- Collaboration with administration to add a component of UDL to "walk-through" observation checklist

