PD Activity Stations: Building Concrete Tools for the Classroom

Station 1: Chunking

Directions:

- Choose a tricky assignment from your content area.
- Identify the trickiest part for students.
- Pick up at least five sticky notes (use more if needed).
- Write each step of the learning process—one step per sticky note.
- Arrange your sticky notes in order.
- Complete the task exactly as written, step by step. Revise if needed.
- Select a task card template and rewrite your finalized steps.
- Make an extra copy and plan to try it out within a week.

Materials:

- Sticky notes
- Pens/markers
- *Task card templates*
- Copies of tricky assignments
- *Clipboards or chart paper*

Station 2: Visual Schedules / Task Cards

Directions:

- Select a classroom routine, lab procedure, or multi-step activity.
- Select a task card template.
- Write each step as a short, clear direction.
- Draw or add visuals for each step (symbols, sketches, clip art).
- Assemble steps in order and check alignment of visuals/words.
- Finalize your task card and decide where to display it.

Materials:

- *Task card templates*/cardstock
- Markers/colored pencils
- Stickers/clip art/magazines
- Scissors, glue sticks, tape

Station 3: Flash Cards

Directions:

- Pick 5–10 key terms, facts, or concepts students must recall quickly.
- Write the question/prompt on one side and the answer on the other.
- Pair with another teacher and quiz each other to check clarity.
- Revise unclear cards, then bundle your set with a rubber band.
- Plan one way to use your deck with students this week.

Materials:

- Index cards/cardstock
- Pens/markers
- *Rubber bands or envelopes*

Station 4: Retrieval Practice

Directions:

- Choose a concept or skill students should recall from memory.
- Select a retrieval method (brain dump, quiz, whiteboard recall, etc.).
- Draft clear directions and timing (Typically 1–5 minutes).
- Test the activity with a partner and adjust as needed.
- Finalize your plan on the template and decide when to use it.

Materials:

- Paper and pens
- Whiteboards and markers (optional)