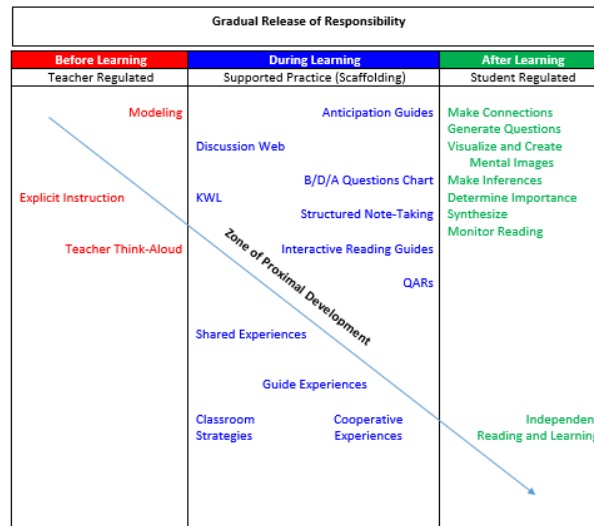## Gradual Release of Responsibility

The Gradual Release of Responsibility framework provides a model for intentional planning and delivery of high quality instruction. Lev Vygotsky was a Russian theorist who is best known for his work with the zone of proximal development. You most likely studied his work in pre-service days when you learned about the craft of instruction. The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) is an important concept that relates to the difference between what a child can achieve independently and what a child can achieve with guidance and encouragement from a skilled partner. It's the sweet spot– it's the only place where learning can truly occur. The Gradual Release Model provides a platform for ensuring students are working within the Zone of Proximal Development.

Universal Design for Learning

The goal of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is to remove barriers to learning and increase student success rates by employing a variety of teaching methods to improve student achievement. UDL functions on three (3) main principles:

- Representation – providing information in multiple formats
- Actions and Expression – providing multiple ways for students to interact with learning materials and demonstrate understanding
- Engagement – providing different ways to motivate students

UDL focuses on classroom flexibility in order to provide equal access to content and allow multiple manners for students to demonstrate understanding. Reference the National Center on Universal Design for Learning website for additional information.