

Spring Research Institute

May 4-6, 2006

Session Overviews:

School Wide Planning and How to Evaluate Your School Improvement Activities

With Mike Loretz and Chris Rhines

Chris and Mike have had extensive experience with School Wide Planning and School Reform. Their session will help you stay focused on the “big picture” and the true mission of your school while you design strategies to address your identified areas of need. Effective improvement plans create layers of support for students and articulate “systems” of response to students who are struggling.

In addition to helping participants implement the “steps” of schoolwide improvement planning, special attention will be given to the evaluation of the plan and the strategies that you choose to implement. Although accountability and compliance with expectations is a common theme with most educational efforts these days, Chris and Mike will primarily focus on making things meaningful and useful for staff and students.

Effective Implementation of SIOP

With Frank Hernandez

This presentation is intended as an introduction to the effective implementation of the Sheltered Instruction Observational Protocol method. It will also discuss where SIOP fits into the school reform process (CIP) and effective implementation strategies. Participants should be prepared for a group discussion on developing a professional development plan for the implementation of Sheltered Instruction.

Standards Based ELL Instruction

With Frank Hernandez

This presentation will begin with the components of reviewing English Language Development (ELD) research and clarifying who the ELL student is. Presentation topics will include how standards support instruction and appropriate teacher and administration accountability. Participants should be prepared to participate in discussions on why we need ELP standards and are standard objectives only for ELL students. The presentation will conclude with an introduction on how to begin the implementation process.

Differentiated Instruction: First Steps to Implementation

With Cate Hill and Aeylin Summers

Suggestions and tips for getting Differentiated Instruction started at the classroom, school, and district levels. Come find out ideas that have and have not worked for other educators who are on the way to reaching all learners through differentiating instruction to students.

Small Learning Communities

With Vicki Van Buren, Mark Neffendorf, Chris Reese and Al Hulbert

This session will focus on how to work with staff to effect the implementation of smaller learning communities, structures and strategies: how they did it, what worked and didn't, issues they had to address, etc. They will share their evaluation plan and implementation timelines and recommendations made as the result of federal and state site visitations. The team's training is based in the coalition of Essential Schools' Critical Friends Group.