



12th Annual Curriculum & Research Directors' Meeting

Allegro Chicago Hotel • 171 West Randolph St. • Chicago, IL 60601

Introduction:

Solutions to the student achievement issues we face today are too complex for any single department or division to address alone. While it is tempting to appropriate a model that was successful elsewhere, or seize on a proposal that will shake up the status quo, we often find that these solutions do not work and often generate extraordinary push back because they fail to consider the needs and priorities of the people throughout the system and aren't supported by cross-departmental collaboration .

Given the interrelated nature of the many systems that impact achievement, the Council of the Great City Schools invites teams of senior school district leaders in curriculum, research, school supervision, and innovation to come together at the annual Curriculum and Research Directors' Meeting to work and collaboratively plan to advance student achievement in their districts. The sessions will focus on aspects of a systems approach to strengthening teaching and learning, including:

- Promoting effective communication across central office departments and schools
- Building a shared vision that undergirds the work of improving student achievement
- Building a deep understanding of standards and district expectations in literacy and mathematics and determining how that understanding is demonstrated
- Thinking through the development and use of formative assessments that measure student progress towards meeting the standards
- Ensuring effective use of the right types of data
- Creating a strong Tier I instructional program
- Thinking through the role of meaningful interventions
- Effectively utilizing professional development resources
- Considering the fit of innovative instructional practices
- Tracking and using Academic Key Performance Indicators
- Applying the results of the CGCS Assessment Survey

AGENDA

Pre-Conference, Wednesday, July 15, 2015 – (9:00 a.m. – 12:00pm)

Looking at Rigor Through the Lens of Writing: Making Thinking Visible Across the Curriculum

Participants will experience an instructional approach that builds student knowledge using sets of texts and questioning strategies that provide students with the vocabulary, language and content to enable them to achieve proficiency in writing arguments and justifications of answers to rigorous questions and tasks.

Wednesday, July 15, 2015 – (1:00pm – 7:00pm)

Registration

Annual Meeting Welcome, Introduction, and Overview

Breaking the Silos: Uniting to Improve Student Achievement Employing Systems Thinking

Opening Session

Welcome Reception

Thursday, July 16, 2015 – (7:00am – 6:00pm)

Registration

Breakfast

Plenary Session I - **Listening with the Intent to Understand: Building Effective Communication Across Departments and Schools**

Break

Plenary Session II – **Building a Shared Vision that Undergirds the Work of Improving Tier 1 Instruction and Student Achievement**

- Clarifying organizational vision and roles
- Using data, assessments, student work and artifacts aligned to the vision of improving student achievement as defined in the curriculum

Lunch with Publishers/Assessment Roundtables

Panel Discussion - Considering Role Perspectives in the Planning Process

Curriculum, Research, and Principal Supervisor Role-alike Breakout Sessions - **Operationalizing the Vision: Building a Deep Understanding of Standards, Formative Assessments, and Meaningful Interventions**

Plenary Session III – **Report Out and Discussion**

Reception – Publishers Tabletop

Friday, July 17, 2015 – (7:00am – 6:00pm)

Registration

Breakfast

Plenary Session IV - **Operationalizing the Vision: Getting the Right Data and Using it Effectively**

Panel discussion: Lessons from the Field

Plenary Session V - **Understanding Systemic Impacts Throughout the Organization: Best Utilization of Professional Development Resources**

Lunch

Curriculum, Research, and Principal Supervisor Role-alike Breakout Sessions

Plenary Session VI - **Sustainability - Embedding the Work in the District Culture**

Reception

Saturday, July 18, 2015 – (7:30am – 12:00pm)

Breakfast

Round Table Discussion – Innovative Instructional Practices and Individualized Learning

Legislative Update

Research and Curriculum Product and Project Updates

Discussion and Wrap-up

Adjourn