

The SMART Institute

For Vision-Driven Instructional Leadership

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the SMART Institute for Vision-Driven Instructional Leadership?

The SMART Institute is 7 days of professional learning, in 3 sets of trainings, during the 2014-2015 school year. The Institute content includes a framework and strategy for leading and managing Vision-driven school-level transformation and instructional change. The Institute reflects the attributes of effective professional learning as outlined in Learning Forward's new Standards for Professional Learning.

Who should attend the SMART Institute?

The Institute is open to individuals and teams from public, charter and private schools in Texas. School-based instructional leaders, including Principals, Assistant Principals, school leadership teams, instructional coaches, and Central Office leaders who support school transformation and instructional change are likely participants in the Institute.

What knowledge, skills and tools will a SMART Institute graduate possess?

Graduates of the SMART Institute will have a deeper understanding of Vision principles and how they can be applied in the context of the proven SMART Process for School Transformation. They will learn and utilize a set of practical tools and collaborative processes to assist school-based teams to focus on essential learning standards, analyze data from multiple authentic assessments, and create student-focused SMART goals. They will also learn how to engage their school-based teams in researching, implementing and measuring the impact of Vision-driven instructional strategies on goal attainment.

How is the SMART Institute different from TASA's Academy for Transformational Leadership?

The Academy for Transformational Leadership is a customized professional development experience designed specifically for Texas leaders who want to build capacity to lead school transformation so that the entire education community realizes the benefits of a healthy and vital public education system. The SMART Institute guides participants through a systematic, step-by-step methodology for instructional improvement that includes goal development, facilitation of collaborative teaching and learning processes, and use of data from multiple sources to measure individual student progress on high-priority learning standards.

What will be expected of participants during and after the SMART Institute?

- ◆ Participate actively during all 7 training days and do the assigned work between trainings
- ◆ Engage with other participants around Vision-driven school transformation leadership
- ◆ Collaborate with others in their districts to realize Vision-driven SMART school transformation

Can I earn continuing professional education credit by participating in the SMART Institute?

Yes - CPE credits will be given to SMART Institute participants.

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