TEACHER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Teacher Leadership Academy (TLA) is designed for emerging teacher leaders who serve in various roles within LEAs. The academy focuses on developing and strengthening leadership-based competencies, enabling teacher leaders to positively impact student achievement and promotes collegial professional growth.

YEAR LONG PROGRAM DESIGN:

- Aligns with the new Teacher Standards Dimension 4: Professional Practice and Responsibilities (TAC, Title 19)

- Provides interactive scenarios, vignettes, case studies, discussion and reflection

- Imbeds learning formats to include face-to-face and online interaction

- Incorporates reflective practice while promoting professional growth

- Allows for LEA customization throughout program

  Based on works by Marilyn Katzenmeyer, Gayle Moller and Roland Barth.

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MODULE 1: The Why and What of Teacher Leadership

This session will provide an expanded overview of the alignment of teacher leadership to the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS). This module will focus on the rationale for promoting teacher leadership which rests on a foundation of four perspectives. Each of these is a lens through which to view the purpose of building teacher leadership. During this session, participants will also share some Risk-Taking Opportunities (RTO) in which each will decide on their own year-long task.

MODULE 2: Developing Teacher Leaders and Understanding Self and Others

Participants will learn about what teacher leaders need to know about effective professional development for themselves. To prepare teachers for leadership roles, Katzenmeyer and Moller propose a development model, Leadership Development for Teachers, for professional learning beyond competency in teaching skills. A self-assessment instrument is introduced and participants will engage in a role-play about the factors contributing to teacher uniqueness.

MODULE 3: The Dimensions of Culture, Context and Their Impact on Teacher Leadership

Participants will delve into the importance of school culture and the impact of context on the work of teacher leaders in improving schools and outcomes for their students. Two dimensions of school culture will be discussed closely, Collegiality and Open Communication, and how they relate to coaching peers and all other stakeholders. Relationships among adults in the school, organizational structure, and actions of the principal are three factors that influence the school context for promoting teacher leadership and participants will explore these via a variety of instructional strategies.

MODULE 4: Influencing Others: Teacher Leadership through a Growth Mindset

Teacher leaders are able to influence situations in their schools through their modeling of their own effective practice, collaboration with others, and involvement in decision making and problem solving. This module will help teacher leaders explore learning-influencing strategies (listening, group skills, and negotiating skills) and consider the question, "How do I lead?" Teacher leaders will get a glimpse into the growth mindset as it relates to teacher leadership.

MODULE 5: Emerging Teacher Leadership: Challenges and The Future of Teacher Leadership

The major topic of discussion will focus around how the teacher leader role may be informal or formal and may last only a short time or be a long-term commitment. The goal is to find the best fit between the task and the teacher leader. Teacher leaders in this module will focus on how they can learn advocacy skills in order to take initiatives that will result in a powerful future for teacher leadership.

MODULE 6: Risk-Taking Opportunity Share Fair

Participants will engage in discussions about philosophies in education and share their Risk-Taking Opportunity with the cohort.

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