

Building School Capacity for College Readiness Among All Students

Institute

Purpose:

To prepare a team of school leaders to begin identifying the key elements necessary for improving student achievement and college readiness among all students

Institute Goals:

- To begin developing consensus about the need for improving college readiness among all students
- To analyze student achievement patterns at each school and assess UTEP/EPCC college placement data for each school's graduates
- To assess the school's academic culture for improvement
- To provide the latest and best information about research and practice about improving student achievement
- To begin assessing key policies, practices and procedures that are central to improving college readiness among all students
- To develop a plan for engaging the full school faculty and staff in improvement efforts

Institute Processes:

The most important work of the Institute occurs in school team meetings, for it is the school team that must understand the need for improving student achievement and college readiness. These are highly structured team meetings which ensure that discussion is focused and purposeful, and each team meeting builds increasing capacity in the team. General sessions precede the team meetings and identify key concepts or issues to be discussed in the school team meetings that follow.

Institute Participants:

Each school team must include the principal, assistant principal, a counselor, and one teacher each from mathematics, science, and English. The full school team must attend all sessions during the two-day institute. Replication of the Institute for each school's full faculty and staff is highly recommended.

Time Frame:

The Institute is comprised of two full, consecutive days.

On the first morning, the Institute participants will hear from a national speaker on the urgency for improving college readiness, as well as a local university leader providing data on college readiness among students.

That afternoon, teams will review and internalize their school's student achievement and college readiness data and assess their school's readiness and commitment to improve.

On the morning of day two of the Institute, they will identify and determine the quality of current improvement initiatives at their school, examine progress to date and priorities for the future.

On the final afternoon, they will begin to determine next steps and key elements of their school's action plan for improving college readiness and student achievement.

Follow-Up

It is expected that after the Institute, districts would support campus implementation of college readiness activities by prioritizing that work and by maintaining a set of metrics that assess progress toward college readiness among all students. In addition, College Readiness Teams that attended the Institute would attend one-day follow-up sessions each semester.