

Southern Regional Education Board

Leadership Curriculum Modules

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works with educational leaders and policy-makers in 16 member states including Oklahoma, to improve Pre-K through postsecondary education. *High Schools That Work* is a major initiative of SREB and many Oklahoma public schools have been affiliated with that initiative for many years. SREB is committed to the belief that educational leadership is the key to systemic improvement. With that philosophy in mind, the SREB has created training modules where they bridge current research findings and best practices.

Schools selecting the SREB Module Training will pay costs from the OK GEAR UP Sub grant. A brief description of the three modules includes:

Module: Building and Leading Effective School Improvement Teams

- Teams of people can accomplish larger goals for the school than individuals can
- People are more committed to action when they are part of the decision-making process. Decisions should be made by those who will implement them. A consensus approach is most useful for team decisions.
- Each team member brings different strengths to the team. Teams are more productive when they identify, maximize and channel these strengths. Teamwork helps everyone achieve their full potential.
- A clear, compelling vision tied to student achievement is essential to team productivity. This vision should be based on shared beliefs about high expectations, data, instruction, curriculum and accountability.
- Well-managed meetings have thoughtful agendas, clear boundaries and ground rules, and visible processes for gathering information, making decisions, and follow-up.
- High performing teams learn together.

Module: Assessing Academic Rigor to Ensure Grade-level Proficiency and College Readiness

- Rigor means having high expectations in curriculum standards, classroom assignments, ongoing assessment, and testing. All must be aligned for maximum student achievement.
- Typical classroom expectations decline from one grade level to the next.
- A taxonomy is a useful tool for classifying objectives, instruction, and assessment to determine level of rigor.
- Alignment (standards > objectives > assessment tasks > instructional strategies) is essential to raising the level of rigor.
- We attend to what we measure! If we are serious about raising the level of rigor in our school, we must accurately assess where we are now.

Module: Designing Assessment to Improve Student Learning

- If you think the income level or ethnicity of your students means that student achievement will be low or high, think again! 90/90/90 schools prove that effective assessment and instruction make the difference.
- Curriculum standards determine our outcomes, assessments (used properly) chart your progress toward the standards, and instruction is planned to support students in completing assignments.
- The main reason you should grade is to provide useful feedback to students so they can learn from it and improve.
- Formative assessment – our focus here - can be described as assessment for learning instead of assessment of learning.
- It is so tempting to choose assessment methods that are easy to grade, but best practices tells us that we should choose those methods that best enable us to see if students have a deep understanding of the essential questions.
- Instruction that is proven to increase student achievement has the following qualities: aligned with standards; active student participation; emphasis on higher-order thinking skills and rich, complex ideas; reading and writing in all subjects; complex problem solving; and use of formative assessment to inform teaching decisions and provide student feedback.

Oklahoma GEAR UP will conduct SREB Leadership Curriculum module training in the summer and fall. **Training (two days) will be scheduled in the summer. A third training day for each module will be conducted the following fall.**

The maximum benefit of the training is achieved when at least two school districts with three-member teams are represented in each module. Oklahoma GEAR UP reserves the right to adjust training plans and/or schedules to maximize training goals.

For more information on Southern Regional Education Board training go to www.sreb.org

NOTE: Expenditure procedures should always follow district policy guidelines.