

FAQs about Strategy Workshop

How do I know if I have a district-wide shared understanding of high quality teaching and learning?

The morning of the first day is about creating a district-wide shared understanding of what high quality teaching and learning (HQTL) look like. You already have that if your district has already has a definition of HQTL that is a) research-based and high-leverage; b) common across the district, c) known to everyone; d) tied to your vision of the graduate; e) the focus of professional learning and coaching; articulated with SRBI and educator evaluation.

Can I stay over?

Yes! You can come the night before (Wednesday the 26th) and/or spend the night between days one and two. The accommodation will be at the low, low price of \$50 per night, and we encourage you to take advantage of this as it will give you the opportunity to talk more about your ideas and give you some additional planning time. But of course, you don't have to stay on site if that doesn't work for you. Register for accommodation on the same registration page as the workshop.

Do I have to do any prep?

Yes! We have some articles for you to read and some pre-work. When you register, we will send you a link to a Google folder and additional information within a few weeks.

Who should come?

Our ideal participant is an educational leader who wants to be provided with the time and the structure to think systemically and strategically about her/his work. There is no “silver bullet” or “one size fits all”, although we certainly have recommendations about how to think about the work of improving schools. At the same time, we don't want this to distract from the work you are already doing or become “the next thing”. This is about affording you the time to think about the work, and providing you tools to do the work effectively, and giving you guidelines to do the right work. But it is not prescriptive—we're not going to tell you what literacy program to use or that you should adopt a cooperative learning model.

Should I come by myself or with a team?

Either; whatever you think will work best for you. You can bring a small group or just one other person. If you do come by yourself, rest assured that there will be time to talk about your plans and give and receive feedback.

You mentioned a shared understanding of high quality teaching and learning (HQTL), but you didn't mention portrait of the graduate (PoG)—are you going to address that too?

No, not in any depth. We think that the work of developing strategy is a lot easier if there is clarity about the vision for students—AKA PoG. And we will point you to resources for developing a PoG if you have not already done that. But this workshop is about backwards mapping from your vision of HQTL.

What will I walk away with at the end of the workshop?

What you leave with is partly up to you, and depends on where you start and what you need. You will definitely refine your schema for strategy and use tools for thinking about *your* strategy. Potentially, you will also have:

1. A visual representation of the connection of the [seven systems](#) to HQTL.
2. A plan for building instructional and/or leadership capacity to support HQTL.
3. Feedback on some or all aspects of your plan(s).

What should I wear?

Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes—partly because we'll ask you to move around, but more because we want this to feel more like a group of people getting together to think and talk and collaborate than a formal professional meeting.