Learning-Focused Conversations

Get Better Outcomes Faster with Teachscape

Teachscape’s workshops are designed to help schools and districts get the most out of Teachscape tools and achieve improved outcomes quickly. Teacher evaluations drive instructional improvement when instructional leaders are skilled at leading professional conversations with teachers that focus on learning. This workshop helps participants develop these skills and give teachers a clear pathway to continuously improve their practice.

Workshop Description

This workshop prepares principals and other instructional leaders to be skilled at engaging teachers in collaborative, improvement-focused conversations about instructional practice.

Using Charlotte Danielson’s Framework for Teaching, this one-day workshop draws from the Learning-Focused Conversations model developed by educational consultants Laura Lipton and Bruce Wellman.

The workshop develops the critical skills needed to provide specific and actionable feedback as well as differentiate when to be very directed in teacher feedback and when to be more circumspect.

Learning Targets

- Use the Learning-Focused Conversations model to learn to initiate and sustain collaborative interactions with teachers guided by student learning needs
- Explore the critical role of data-driven conversations focused on teachers’ learning to empower them to develop expertise and improve their professional practice
- Engage with a continuum of learning-focused interaction including calibrating, consulting, collaborating, and coaching
- Apply templates and tools for planning and reflecting using observational and other classroom-based data

Target Audience

- District leaders
- Instructional leaders
- Other staff responsible for evaluation of teaching

Workshop Outcomes

- Participants in this workshop will develop skills to initiate and sustain collaborative conversations with teachers that lead to improvement in teaching practice.

Format

- One-day face-to-face workshop per cohort (up to 35 participants)
- Includes one planning day for a customized experience

Prerequisites

- Experience using the Framework for Teaching to gather evidence in classroom observations
- Completion of at least one of the following:
  » Teachscape Focus observer training and success passing the proficiency assessment
  » Face-to-face training in the Framework for Teaching

Materials Included

- Participant Learning Guide
Services Approach

At different stages in their careers and at different points in their own learning process, teachers need varying amounts of direct information, even within inquiry-driven conversations. This workshop incorporates planning and reflecting templates to initiate and sustain collaborative interactions with teachers guided by student learning needs. These templates help participants:

• Guide rich, data-driven conversations
• Connect a specific lesson/unit to the domains and components of the Framework for Teaching
• Consider areas of strength and areas for growth

Using the Learning-Focused Conversations model developed by Laura Lipton and Bruce Wellman, this workshop helps principals and other instructional leaders build capacity to determine the specific needs of each teacher and shift the form of interaction to meet targeted goals.

Participants are introduced to the Continuum of Learning-Focused Interaction to target and adjust interactions appropriate to the teacher both developmentally and contextually. Four interaction stances are presented:

• **Calibrating:** Clarification of expectations, achievable goals, and measures of success
• **Consulting:** Sharing of essential information, principles of practice, connections to performance standards, and relevant knowledge of craft
• **Collaborating:** Co-analysis of data samples and co-development of ideas and information to devise a solution for the specific issue
• **Coaching:** Support for the teacher’s thinking, problem-solving, and goal clarification

Additional Support Available

• **Teachscape Focus observation training and assessment system:** Teachscape recommends that those interested in this workshop first have a firm understanding of the Framework for Teaching and how to use it to conduct classroom observations. They can develop and be assessed on this understanding through this online training and assessment, which uses video of classroom practice to develop observation skills.

• **Applied Observation Skills:** This job-embedded coaching service provides at-elbow support for participants who observe classroom teaching. Applied Observation Skills helps observers develop skills in collecting a robust body of evidence to support the evaluation process and build inter-rater agreement by engaging in co-walks and charting results in peer debriefings.

To find out more about this or any of Teachscape's Professional Services, call 877.98.TEACH, or visit our website at www.teachscape.com.