



Study Group

We are pleased to invite you to register for our fall comprehensive Study Group. School board members, teachers and their union leaders, principals, superintendents, curriculum directors and other administrators, parents and members of the business community will collaboratively learn about and discuss the major topics relevant to school improvement and accountability. Sessions will focus on professional development, student assessment, compensation and educator quality.

All eligible participants will receive **Act 48 and graduate credit** from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. Sessions are to be held every other week beginning in September, with two additional special meetings. Each meeting will last from **3:45 p.m. until 6 p.m.**; location to be determined based on registrants. A tentative schedule follows:

- *Tuesday, September 25:* **Special session** to review the findings of last year's groups and to present the accountability model designed by an Interdistrict Collaborative Design Team. **Brad Jupp of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association** will lead the session.
- *Tuesday, October 2:* The **Professional Development** session will be led by a leading practitioner in the field of staff development and standards-based reform.
- *Tuesday, October 16:* The first **Educator Quality and Compensation** session will be led by **Columbus (Ohio) Education Association President John Grossman**. Columbus has a model teacher peer mentoring program as well as a system-wide concentration on student learning and classroom instruction.
- *Tuesday, October 30:* The second **Educator Quality and Compensation** session will be led by the **Coventry Public Schools Interim Superintendent Mary Kelly** and **Union President Bill Berger**. They will discuss the Rhode Island district's unique approach to systemic standards-based reform, including compensation based on teacher skills and knowledge and student achievement results.
- *Tuesday, November 13:* **Dr. June Rivers**, partner to noted statistician **William Sanders**, will lead the session on **Student Assessment** with a presentation of the **value-added** analysis system. This work provides an extraordinary means to examine the impact of teaching on student learning.
- *Tuesday, November 27:* **Adam Urbanski, director of the Teacher Union Reform Network and president of the Rochester Teachers Association – AFT**, will describe cutting-edge practice in peer mentoring programs and other teacher leadership examples across the country.
- *Tuesday, December 11:* **President of Montgomery County (Maryland) Education Association Mark Simon** will share an example of union leadership to develop a progressive evaluation system anchored to professional development and improvement in instructional practice. (Invited)
- *Tuesday meetings in January TBD*