



session descriptions

Workshop Strand 1: From Theory & Research (10:45 AM - 12:00 PM)

Session 1 - Critical Thinking: What makes a task cognitively demanding?

Dr. Amalio Nieves, Assistant Superintendent of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness, Boston Public Schools
Brooke Childs, Assistant Director of Literacy, Boston Public Schools

How does student-to-student talk support critical thinking? Participants will engage with Zaretta Hammond's research from Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain, as well as other resources, in order to understand how to use discussion as powerful leverage for fostering independent and critical thinkers. At the end of the session participants will have an opportunity to apply their learning by planning discussion structures and questions within a critical thinking task.

Session 2 - Teamwork: What we can learn from sports and coaching?

Dr. Fritz Ettl Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Human Movement and Health Science Education, Butler University

What can the latest research on sports and coaching teach us about developing teamwork? Dr. Fritz I. Ettl Rodriguez will draw on research, practice, and experience to explain the difference between activity and development, and demonstrate concrete practices adults can implement to foster teamwork in youth.

Session 3 - Growth Mindset: How do beliefs affect behavior?

Caitlin McCormick, Senior Manager of Training and Coaching, PEAR Institute

Come learn about the research behind growth mindset, including its roots in cognitive behavioral therapy, what growth mindset looks like, and how to change a fixed mindset to a growth mindset. Caitlin McCormick from the PEAR Institute will present an overview of this research and help participants understand implications for practice.



session descriptions

Workshop Strand 2: From the Field (1:15 PM - 2:30 PM)

Session 1 - Critical Thinking: Embedding opportunities for student reflection and growth

Priscilla Andrade, Trinity Education for Excellence Program Director, Trinity Boston Foundation
Charmaine Arthur, Director of Community Programs, Freedom House
Patrick Francois, Hale Outdoor Learning Adventures Administrator, Hale Reservation

We all want our students to be reflective, critical thinkers, but it can be challenging to find the space and time to practice this skill. In this session, attendees will experience first-hand several strategies to facilitate genuine, student-centered reflection.

Session 2 - Teamwork: Developing safe, strong, and supportive youth relationships

Lisa Bower, Senior Community Action Coordinator & Camp Lapham Director, Crossroads
Eliza Halmo, Program Director, TechBoston Academy Girls Team, Harlem Lacrosse
Adrian Heneveld, Regional Director, Boston, Harlem Lacrosse
Emma Patton, Special Education Teacher & After School Director, Thomas J. Kenny School

How can we empower students to build positive, authentic peer relationships? In this teamwork-focused workshop, participants will learn how peer mentorship, daily affirming rituals, and cooperative experiential learning promote strong student-to-student connections.

Session 3 - Growth Mindset: Fostering a culture that embraces feedback and risk-taking

Lyndsea Arikian, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (Boston), Breakthrough Greater Boston
Jennie McDonald-Brown, Somerville Site Director, Breakthrough Greater Boston
Sandra Lee, Director of Youth Education, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Christopher Parris, Senior Director, College Success Academy, The Steppingstone Foundation
Jane Ventrone, Senior Director, Teaching and Learning, The Steppingstone Foundation

Students thrive when they believe that continuous effort, rather than inherent ability, leads to future success. This session will provide attendees with a diverse set of practices to help students internalize a growth mindset, such as multiple practice-feedback cycles, adult modeling, peer coaching, and the celebration of mistakes.