



# Building a Professional Learning System through Collaboration

## AFT Collaborative Network at Summer Educator Academy

July 8–10, 2016

Maritime Institute, Linthicum, Md.

“Partnerships focused on creating **collaborative environments for teaching and learning** that share resources to support adults **benefit our children and our communities.**”

—Randi Weingarten

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**PURPOSE STATEMENT:** The purpose of the Collaborative Network is to expose teams to the many AFT resources and professional development opportunities that are available, to make connections to implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act, and to develop a plan for professional learning based on what locals and districts need.

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### Participating teams will:

- Establish a high-functioning team, including all stakeholders, to design, implement and support professional learning throughout the district;
  - Develop a district professional learning plan that aligns with ESSA priorities and opportunities for school improvement; and
  - Implement a comprehensive professional learning system that results in improved student learning.
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### With ESSA, we have the OPPORTUNITY to:

- Elevate educator voice;
  - Enhance stakeholder partnerships;
  - Define professional learning in a new way;
  - Reframe evaluation and accountability; and
  - Become advocates for the tools and strategies needed to make schools successful.
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### Participating teams include:

- Union leaders, principals, school-level union representatives, members of school improvement teams, community partners, and individuals with day-to-day responsibility for supporting high-quality professional development; and
- District personnel who share responsibility for planning and facilitating systems-level change to improve teaching and learning.



A Union of Professionals

This partnership will focus on developing a comprehensive professional learning system with the overarching goal of increasing educator, student and community engagement in learning.

Dear Leader,

Using professional issues as an engagement strategy gets to the heart of what educators strive to accomplish every day. For many years, Summer Educator Academy has been one of the AFT's primary vehicles for advancing collaborative, research-rooted professional development. With passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the doors have opened and are presenting opportunities to become engaged in new and exciting ways.

This year's Summer Educator Academy will provide a new opportunity for locals and districts: the Collaborative Network, July 8-10, 2016, at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Md. The collaborative will bring together union/ management/ educator/ community teams for the purpose of assessing, designing and refining professional learning systems for educators. It will give stakeholders the chance to engage in work that supports implementation of ESSA and builds local capacity to facilitate teacher-led professional development.

The collaborative will help the teams become familiar with the AFT's many resources and professional development opportunities; make connections to ESSA implementation; and develop a plan for professional learning based on what the local and district need.

Goals of the Collaborative Network:

- Build upon the collaborative structure of the Center for School Improvement-Leadership Institute.
- Educate local and district leaders on professional development priorities as they connect to ESSA.
- Encourage districts to use Title II funds for AFT-sponsored PD.
- Help local leaders build capacity for providing AFT-sponsored PD.
- Engage new leaders and help them develop strategies to connect with members using professional issues as the lever.

Teams of three to four individuals (with a cap of 60 participants) will rotate through a series of workshops based on:

- ESSA guidelines and recommendations;
- Developing and enhancing team building skills;
- Restorative practices;
- Teacher Leadership;
- Community schools;
- AFT's eLearning Platform; and
- Professional development.

If you are interested in participating, email Lisa Dickinson: [edickinson@aft.org](mailto:edickinson@aft.org). We will arrange a conference call for further discussion.

Thank you.