

How can I learn more?

Article: A Fresh Perspective: Network Gives Superintendents a Safe Space to Learn and Grow, by Joan Richardson, NSDC, *The Learning System*, Vol. 3, No. 6, March 2008.
Link: <http://www.nsd.org/publications/articleDetails.cfm?articleID=1626>.

Video: <http://iowaschoolleadership.org/suptnetwork>

Contact: AEA Chief Administrators
Bonnie Boothroy, bboothroy@sai-iowa.org



Superintendents' Network

A unique opportunity for superintendents who are committed to sustained instructional improvement in their districts



www.sai-iowa.org/ila



www.iowaaea.org



What is the purpose of a Superintendents' Network?



Developed by Dr. Richard Elmore of Harvard University, the network model is intended to increase the capacity of superintendents to provide leadership for improved instruction. Networks give superintendents a safe space to grapple with difficult issues related to improving teaching and learning.

Network involvement may serve as a means to achieving a learning goal in a superintendent's Individual Administrator Professional Development Plan. Ultimately it may help a district accomplish CSIP goals.

What is the ILA Superintendents' Network?

Each AEA will offer superintendents an opportunity to participate in a network. Coordinated through the Iowa Leadership Academy, networks are supported by the AEA statewide system and the Wallace Foundation. Collaborative partners: AEAs, SAI, IASB, DE.

How is a network structured?

Common elements: All Iowa networks will use an "instructional rounds" model in which superintendents participate in site visits to each other's districts. The host superintendent presents a "problem of practice" based on a "theory of action," then network colleagues observe classroom instruction and provide feedback using a non-judgmental protocol. All networks will use Harvard-trained *facilitators* (Iowa superintendents teamed with other

educational leaders) to coordinate professional learning, organize visits, facilitate network conversations, and ensure fidelity to the basic principles of the model. All networks will use a *common commitment form and maintain consistent membership*.

Customized elements: Initially, facilitators in each network will determine structural elements such as network size, time commitment, frequency of site visits, etc. Network members will establish norms of practice for things such as attendance, mutual responsibility, involvement/attentiveness, confidentiality, sharing, etc. Network members will determine how they will hold themselves and each other accountable for honoring their norms.

What are the expectations for participants?

- ✓ Attend all network meetings
- ✓ Host and participate in site visits
- ✓ Typical time commitment for meetings and visits combined is one day per month
- ✓ Be an active and engaged learner
- ✓ Honor network norms

What is the role of the school board?

- ✓ Support the superintendent's investment of time in the network
- ✓ Ask the superintendent to share network experiences and learning
- ✓ Support the superintendent's actions to follow up on site visit recommendations
- ✓ Understand the network well enough to explain it to others