

# Focus Group Introductions

## Introduction

- Good afternoon: Thank you so much for being here. Your district has invited you to participate in this focus group as a part of their work in the Texas Collaborative for Science Innovation. This is a two year grant funded initiative by the Bill and Melinda gates foundation to support the implementation of the new science standards.
- The grant is being led by two organizations in partnership supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - UPD consulting and Next Gen Science.
- We are spending some time learning about what is happening in the district to help leaders create a current state assessment. For this reason, we ask for your 100% transparency in responses to the questions below. Your responses will remain anonymous and while some of the SLT is in the room, they will not be placing any kind of name attribution to any one individual comment.
- We will have a few minutes at the end if you would like to ask us questions as well.
- Let's start off with a quick round of introductions - name, role and how many years you have been with the district?

**SLT** - Science Leadership Teams

**IM** - Instructional Materials

**IP** - Instructional Practice

**PL** - Professional Learning

**AA** - Aligned Assessments

**SS** - Sustained Support for Science

## Teacher Focus Groups

- SLT: How much do you know about the new TEKS and how comfortable are you implementing the three dimensional science model.
  - What do you know about the district's science leadership team and vision for science instruction?
- IM: Tell us about the curriculum and the materials you use to teach science? Are they district provided? If so, how often do you use the assigned materials?
  - What do you like about them? What would you want to change?
- IP: What instructional practices do you use most often in your classrooms? What practices have you recently received Professional Learning on that you are working to implement? What are students doing in your classroom during science instruction?
- PL: Give us an overview of the PL you have most recently taken about science or one that was most effective. Is there any other PL that would be most helpful for you?
- AA: How do you gather data in your classroom? Do you have common assessments that you use? How are they created?
- SS: What ability do you have to work on your science instruction with your team on campus? Do you have enough time or enough support or the opportunity to get feedback and input regularly?
  - What does family support and culture look like for science instruction?
- What would you describe as the strengths within the district in terms of science teaching and learning?
- What will be the barriers to implementing a new vision and strategy for implementing the new TEKS within your district?

- If you had a magic wand, and could change anything about science teaching and learning - what would it be?

## School Leader Focus Groups

- SLT: How much do you know about the new TEKS and how comfortable are you supporting teachers with the three dimensional science model?
- What do you know about the district's science leadership team and vision for science instruction?
- IM: Tell us about the curriculum and the materials you use to support science? Are they district provided? If so, what do you like about them? What would you want to change?
- IP: What instructional practices do you see teachers excelling at on your campus in science. Where are there areas for growth? What are students doing in your classroom during science instruction?
- PL: Give us an overview of the PL you have most recently taken or want to take on science instruction?
- AA: How do you gather data for science at your campus? Are there common assessments? How would you say your students are performing on the science standards?
- SS: What ability do you have to make funding and time decisions for science instruction on your campus? Are you able to provide sufficient feedback and input to teachers on science instruction?
  - What does family support and culture look like for science instruction?
- What would you describe as the strengths at your campus and district in terms of science teaching and learning?
- What will be the barriers to implementing a new vision and strategy for implementing the new TEKS within your district?
- If you had a magic wand, and could change anything about science teaching and learning - what would it be?

## District Leader Focus Groups

- SLT: How much do you know about the new TEKS and how comfortable are you supporting teachers with the three dimensional science model.
  - What do you know about the district's science leadership team and vision for science instruction?
- IM: Tell us about the curriculum and the materials the district provides to support science? What do you like about them? What would you want to change?
- IP: What instructional practices do you see teachers excelling in science? Where are there areas for growth? What are students doing in classrooms during science instruction?
- PL: Give us an overview of the PL you have most recently taken or led? What are your reflections on the pl?
- AA: How do you gather data for science at the district? Are there common assessments? How would you describe the quality and use of the assessments?
- SS: What ability do you have to make funding and time decisions for science instruction at the district?
  - What does family support and culture look like for science instruction?

- What would you describe as the strengths at your district in terms of science teaching and learning?
- What will be the barriers to implementing a new vision and strategy for implementing the new TEKS within your district?
- If you had a magic wand, and could change anything about science teaching and learning - what would it be?

## **Student Focus Groups**

- Tell us about what your Science class is like? What are you doing most of the time?
- What is one of your favorite experiences you have had in your science classroom?
- What are you feeling during science class?
- What is one of your least favorite science experiences?
- How would you describe your science class in comparison to the other subject areas?
- If you could wave a magic wand and change anything about your science class what would it be?