

Office of Charter Schools

1025 Second Avenue Rm. 206
Oakland, CA 94606
P: 510.879.8349 F: 510.879.1844



www.ousdcharters.net

every student. every classroom. every day.

IMPACT INITIATIVE : Oakland Inquiry Project :: F.A.Q.

Goals ::

1. Support improving student achievement through the effective use of an effective practice
2. Develop the capacity of leaders in Oakland and Our Office to be vehicles for positive school change through an Inquiry Process
3. Bridge the chasm between public schools that exists in Oakland among District schools and charter schools for the sake of our students.

Focus ::

The focus is essentially how to get the most out of an Early College program knowing that some schools are at a very nascent stage in developing an Early College program and others are simply refining and tweaking an existing program to go from Good to Great.

Format ::

The format is a Critical Friends Group where-in leaders across a range of high schools in Oakland come together in the spirit of collegiality and continuous improvement – so you're both supporting one another and pushing one another to do the best job you can for your school community. Wherever you are in the stages of developing an Early College program; you bring expertise, experiences, skills and lessons learned. Thus you will be the primary source of information.

That said you will also likely hold focus groups with students participating in early college programs, interview community college professors, partner with community college leadership, and obtain readings and other resources to guide you in your inquiry.

Commitment ::

- Attending 7 to 8 sessions between May and January of next year. Roughly once every six weeks.
- Each session will likely be about 2-3 hours.
- This will be a facilitated cycle of inquiry and at times you may have small bits of homework like a reading or some artifact to gather from your site. There may also be a time where three or four of you may be prepping something for an upcoming meeting, and another three or four of you may be doing so the next time.
- Depending on the will of the group and the direction of the inquiry the meeting locations will vary. You may meet at a school site, you may meet at a community college campus, you may meet back here, or you may meet at the district down-town. The location is likely to change as your inquiry develops.
- You will always be provided food and drink. In the case of the actual sessions, you will receive more of a meal than simply refreshments.

- While you may likely be maintaining a journal, or a binder, or a folder throughout the Inquiry to document this process, we will also be documenting your Inquiry process through written notes, pictures, collecting of artifacts, and through our conversations.

Outcomes ::

When all of this is said and done we should have:

1. A set of recommendations FROM this group TO this group about how to make the most of and get the best out of you're an Early College program.
2. The contents of a Field Guide which our Office will publish and make available to schools throughout Oakland and elsewhere, fully crediting your hard work.
3. A set of relationships and connections among leaders and among schools in Oakland that furthers the Improvement of public school options for kids.

Honorarium ::

We will be providing each participating leader with an honorarium of **\$300 to \$350** depending on the number of participants. We will bring you the first **\$200** check at the next meeting to rope you in. Consider it the professional bonus you give yourself for a night out of town this summer.

Following our next agenda item you will be completing an info sheet that asks you to identify your preferred availability to that we can construct a calendar for these sessions. Naturally, depending on whether or not you will be sold by the end of all of this afternoon to participate, the scheduling process may become a deal-breaker for some. Hopefully your interest and desire to participate will become a factor in how you juggle your many commitments as well.

Next Steps ::

We will compile schedule availability and develop a tentative calendar.

We will contact interested participants with the schedule and request your RSVP for the first Inquiry Session. From there your wings will begin to emerge and in no time you will take flight headed towards greater achievement for your students and your school!

Goal	Target
Continuous, active participation by leaders from both District and charter schools in the Inquiry project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 - 90% attendance by ALL leaders. • Contributions made by ALL participating leaders during at least 85 – 90% of all inquiry sessions.
Satisfaction by leaders in the facilitation, contributions of others, and results of the Inquiry project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 85% of responses by leaders will report that they Agree or Strongly Agree that they were satisfied with the facilitation, contributions of others, and results of the Inquiry project
Publication of a Field Guide that represents the recommendations and cumulative findings of the Inquiry group.	At least 25-50 published Field Guides will be produced within four months after the completion of the Inquiry project.
Students at each participating school will demonstrate an increase in either the rates of participation and/or the pass rate of courses taken through their respective early college programs.	Schools will show a minimum 20% increase in either participation rates or pass rates in their Early College courses over a one year period following the completion of the Inquiry project
Participating leaders will form a professional network that will be advantaged to support their ongoing work in their respective schools.	80% of leaders will report experiences where-in they contacted or were contacted professionally by other participating leaders