



Arizona Charter Schools Program



Looking Ahead

Instructional Rounds

11/05/2020 COHORT TWO

Start @ 8:30 am

Phx International Academy

12/03/2020 COHORT ONE

Start @ 8:30 am

Heritage Academy

Formative Assessment

11/04/2020

@ 2:00-3:30 pm

Teacher Training #1

AMS Glendale

11/04/2020

@ 2:00-3:30 pm

Teacher Training #1

AMS Peoria

11/04/2020

@ 2:15 - 3:45 pm

Teacher Training #1

Great Hearts Maryvale Prep

11/06/2020

@ 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Teacher Training #1

Somerset

11/06/2020

@ 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Teacher Training #1

A+ Academy

11/10/2020

@ 3:45 - 5:00 pm

Teacher Training #1

Heritage Academy

11/12/2020

@ 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Teacher Training #1

CASA Academy

11/12/2020

@ 2:30 - 4:15 pm

Teacher Training #1

Empower College Prep

11/12/2020

@ 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Teacher Training #1

Kaleidoscope

11/13/2020

@ 1:40 - 3:10 pm

Teacher Training #1

Vista College Prep

11/24/2020

@ 9:00 - 10:30 am

Teacher Training #2

EML

12/01/2020

Kaleidoscope

Heritage

12/02/2020

Great Hearts Maryvale Prep

AMS Glendale & Peoria

12/04/2020

Somerset

A+

Vista College Prep



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Dr. Mark Francis writes...

Dear Charter School Leaders,

It's November and we're headed into a holiday season none of us have experienced before. I am well aware of the challenges the pandemic has presented to our schools. I recently spent a week in another state to visit grand children and got to monitor their remote learning experience over multiple days. I observed teachers working the best they could, and I saw bright children struggling to engage in the virtual school environment.

While all of us are doing our best to implement practices that will keep our teachers, students, and families safe, at best those efforts are a "bridge to a vaccine"* that will work (*Health and Human Services Secretary, *Meet the Press*, Sunday, October 18, 2020). Yet, vaccines are all in the future. Let's continue to do the best we can during this arduous time.

I am providing a link to the National Charter School Resource Center webinar report: *Recognizing the Indicators of Distress in your own School*. While the original webinar was for authorizers, their key findings are highly relevant for charter school leaders. NCSRC is a nonprofit educational organization that was selected by the US Department of Education Charter Schools Program (your ultimate funder), to provide technical assistance to Charter Schools Program officers, (AZCSP), authorizers, schools, and parties interested in helping charter schools reach their goals. I highly recommend them.

The following is the NCSRS webinar information, date, and link regarding the follow up to their report:

- If you are a charter school operator, charter board member, charter school management company, or charter support organization, [register for an interactive workshop](#) on **Thursday, November 12 at 2 pm ET/12 pm MST** designed to help you recognize the indicators of distress in your own school.
- Forward this email and information about the November 12 webinar** to schools in your portfolio or others on your team to help spark these conversations within your organization. Not on NCSRC's mailing list? [Click here to join!](#)
- If you have thoughts to share or want to participate in further research, **reach out to them** at contact-us@charterschoolcenter.gov. They'd love to hear from you.

**A Theory of Action is the bridge between
where we are now and where we want to be.**

How Are You Feeling? No, Really.

by David Fox

As a school leader you are probably keenly aware of the stress, anxiety, and frustration of teaching staff. Even as they dig in deeper in the new world of education, your support for them is near paramount in your mind. Add to that your determination to see every student and every family is well supported it's understandable that you too might be a "little" stressed.

A recent survey (May 2020) of over 1,000 principals, APs, and district-level supervisors carried out by the [Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence](#) (YCEI) found that overwhelmingly the emotions participants most experienced were negative (for want of a better word).

Participants were asked to list the three emotions they had felt most in the previous two weeks. You guessed it! *Sad, stressed, frustrated, uncertain*, and *worried* featured at the top of their lists consistently.

In contrast, during a recent Zoom AZCSP had with some of our school leaders, we were greatly encouraged that the tone of the call was upbeat and enthusiastic when we asked them to share something about the beginning of this school year.

In an even more recent small-scale survey [Peter DeWitt](#) found that many school leaders don't talk about stress very much. Respondents wrote "We are leaders—others look to us as strong, positive role models. It can be difficult to admit our struggles and vulnerabilities" and "Because we have to maintain the calm, positive outlook in order for the school to function in any productive way."

At AZCSP **we know how courageous you are** (after all, you lead a charter school!). Nevertheless, it's worth understanding that the best social and emotional learning runs at every level where humans exist. [From top to bottom!](#)

So, remember to take care of yourself. Build up strategies that include reappraisal and reflections, positive self-talk, and better routines. To keep your immunity levels high get good (not just adequate) sleep and some exercise. Nurture relationships at home and school and in your community.

Put on your own oxygen mask before assisting others.