

Growing Ourselves in Service to Our Students: TSTA Summer Continuing Professional Education Series

Teachers, as you wrap up what may have proven to be one of the most challenging seasons of your careers thus far, we at HQ applaud your resolve and undying commitment to the children of Texas. As you begin to plan for your summer break — whatever form that may take during the COVID-19 health crisis — we wanted to share a series of professional learning opportunities that we will be offering this summer.

All three sessions will be offered virtually and will be led by Carrie Griffith, TSTA Teaching and Learning Specialist. Prior to pivoting into education policy and joining TSTA's Public Affairs team, Carrie was a 5th grade teacher, literacy specialist and instructional coach in Austin ISD.

Book Study: Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain

Tuesday, June 23, 4:00 to 5:00

Tuesday, July 28, 4:00 to 5:00

Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students, by Zaretta Hammond

“The framework Hammond offers skillfully weaves together cultural knowledge with neuroscience — the real artistry of culturally responsive pedagogy. This book demonstrates high regard for the complexity of teaching and delivers an even higher regard for the promise and academic potential of the students we've made most vulnerable in our school systems if we, as educators, choose to act on what we know. This book should be required reading for every teacher education program in the country!”

—LaShawn Routé Chatmon, National Equity Project

The achievement gap remains a stubborn problem in education that rears its ugly head across multiple measures of success including grades, course selection, disciplinary referrals, and college completion rates. This professional learning opportunity will build capacity in educators around the design and implementation of effective culturally responsive instruction.

The book study group will implement a professional learning community (PLC) model and will convene twice over the course of the summer.

3 CPE credit hours

19 TAC 232.11 (c)(3)(B) child development, including research on how children learn

19 TAC 232.11 (c)(4)(E) educating students who are educationally disadvantaged

19 TAC 232.11 (c)(4)(J) instructional practices

Growth-Mindset: How it is Used and Misused in Classrooms

Wednesday, June 24, 4:00 to 6:00

This session will cover the research behind the field of psychology that led to the educational phenomenon known as growth mindset. It will include the potential for application in the classroom as well as the misuse of the tenets behind mindset theory and a critical response.

This professional learning opportunity be an interactive session designed to help participants reflect on their practice as educators.

2 CPE credit hours

19 TAC 232.11 (c)(3)(B) child development, including research on how children learn

19 TAC 232.11 (c)(4)(E) educating students who are educationally disadvantaged

Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS): Leveraging Your Resources

Wednesday, July 29, 4:00 to 6:00

This professional learning opportunity will overview the T-TESS appraisal process. It is designed for teachers either new to T-TESS or those interested in developing strategies for maximizing performance level scores.

2 CPE credit hours

19 TAC 232.11 (c)(4)(D) applicable federal and state laws