



# October 2023 Digital Newsletter



## Fall Into PD with Us



### Welcome to October!

School is in full swing. By now you're settling into the school year and probably collaborating and coordinating with your colleagues to provide support for your students. Building productive and rewarding collaborative relationships doesn't just happen. It takes intentional planning and thoughtful, ongoing discussion. [Check out this short seed video \(less than 10 minutes long!\)](#) describing two quick protocols that will help you and your co-teacher, or any collaborators, identify needs and build a solid relationship for a fun and rewarding year together.



[Check Out More Ideas HERE](#)

Click the flyer below to see our October PD offerings!



**COMING SOON: OCTOBER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
 Hosted by the Upstate Professional Development Resource Center

**Teacher Learning Network: Parent Communication & Conferences**  
 Thursday, October 5, 4-5pm  
 In the third session of our Teacher Learning Network, participants will discuss proactive strategies for successful parent communication and explore helpful resources. Participants are encouraged to bring ideas to share and questions to ask. Participants will leave with additional strategies and resources that are easy to implement for ongoing parent communication.

**Small Group Instruction Series: Peer to Peer and Collaborative Learning**  
 Tuesday, October 10, 4-5pm  
 In the second of this three-part series, participants will learn three strategies for promoting peer-to-peer and collaborative learning: Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS), Classwide Peer Tutoring (CWPT), and Reciprocal Peer Tutoring (RPT). Go beyond matching your strongest students with your struggling students and learn strategies to ensure that all students have opportunities to contribute to and receive support from their small group interactions.

**Teacher Learning Network: Student Portfolios and Goals Setting**  
 Thursday, October 12, 4-5pm  
 The fourth session of our Teacher Learning Network will learn strategies for collecting student work to build student portfolios throughout the year, along with helping students set both short-term and long-term goals in the classroom.

**Small Group Instruction Series: Learning Centers and Station Teaching**  
 Tuesday, October 17, 4-5pm  
 In the final session of this series, participants will explore 3 Models of Station Teaching, strategies for Grouping and Movement in Station Teaching, and learn time-saving tips for Planning and Managing Learning Centers. Discover how learning centers can make your instruction more fun and less teacher-directed while meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of all students. Suitable for grades K-12.

**Questions?**  
 Contact Rebecca Shea [rshea@measinc.com](mailto:rshea@measinc.com)

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CENTER (PDRC)**  
 The Upstate PDRC - All NYS Regions North of NYC

Click [HERE](#) or Scan Below to Register

[Visit Our Website Here!](#)



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# At-A-Glance: Professional Development in Fall-Winter 2023



UPSTATE PDRC FOR RELIGIOUS &  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS  
FALL PD AT A GLANCE



Classroom Culture	Small Group Instruction
Thursday, August 24, 2023 <b>Co-Creating Classroom Rules &amp; Expectations with Students</b>	Tuesday, September 26, 2023 <b>Flexible Grouping Strategies</b>
Wednesday, September 27, 2023 <b>Infusing SEL Into Your Everyday Classroom</b>	Tuesday, October 10, 2023 <b>Peer to Peer Collaborative Learning</b>
Thursday, September 28, 2023 <b>Classroom Arrangement &amp; Routines: Structuring Space &amp; Movement for Learning</b>	Tuesday, October 17, 2023 <b>Learning Centers &amp; Station Teaching</b>
Thursday, October 26, 2023 <b>Strategies for Building Strong &amp; Productive Relationships for Learning</b>	
Instructional Practices	Teacher Learning Network
Wednesday, October 18, 2023 <b>Standards-Based Learning: Unpacking Standards into Learning Levels</b>	Thursday, September 7, 2023 <b>Procedures &amp; Expectations</b>
Wednesday, October 25, 2023 <b>Standards-Based Instruction: Differentiating for Deeper Learning</b>	Thursday, September 21, 2023 <b>Lesson Planning</b>
Wednesday, November 1, 2023 <b>Standards-Based Learning: Assessments Using Leveled Learning</b>	Thursday, October 5, 2023 <b>Parent Communication/Conferences</b>
Wednesday, November 29, 2023 <b>Student Choice Boards: Tools for Getting Started</b>	Thursday, October 12, 2023 <b>Student Portfolios &amp; Goal Setting</b>
	Thursday, November 2, 2023 <b>Classroom Discussions</b>
	Thursday, November 30, 2023 <b>Scaffolding Instruction</b>
	Tuesday, December 5, 2023 <b>Feedback Strategies</b>

Click the flyer to see a full listing of Professional Development scheduled for this Fall!

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## Resources

### Planning Engaged Learning

- [A Checklist for Lesson Planning](#)
- [The Mistake-Friendly Classroom](#)
- [Productive Student Conversations](#)
- [Learning to Correct Mistakes in Math & Beyond](#)
- [10 Powerful Ways to End Your Lessons](#)
- [PZ's Thinking Routines Toolbox | Project Zero](#)
- [Instructional Strategies](#)
- [6 Scaffolding Strategies to Use With Students](#)
- [20 Types Of Learning Journals That Help Students Think](#)

### Parent/Family-Teacher Communication

- [Start of Year Teacher-Parent Communication Strategies](#)
- [10 Messages Every Teacher Should Send To Parents](#)
- [9 Tips for Successful Parent-Teacher Communication](#)
- [Scripting A Parent Phone Call- A Skill All Teachers Need](#)
- [The Power of Empathy Interviews in Family Engagement](#)
- [The 6 Phases of a Difficult Conversation: A Strategy Guide for Teachers](#)
- [Difficult Parent Conversations: A Guide For Success](#)

### Video Series on Classroom Management



Check out this 7-part series of videos on Classroom management from the NY Center for School Safety! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

A series of 7 videos presenting strategies for creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all students.

- Video 1 - [What's Your Style](#)
- Video 2 - [Form Healthy Habits](#)
- Video 3 - [In Our Classroom](#)
- Video 4 - [Importance of Relationships](#)
- Video 5 - [Function Based Thinking](#)
- Video 6 - [Phases of Acting Out Behavior](#)
- Video 7 - [Best Practices in Classroom Management](#)

### Additional Video Resources:

[The Teacher Clarity Playbook](#)  
[Structuring The Learning Journey](#)  
[60-Second Strategy: Talk Detectives](#)

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# School Leaders' Network

*for Religious &  
 Independent Schools in NY*



## Join us!

Leading schools today can be arduous at times. Networking with other leaders who are working through similar challenges can serve as a critical support system. Join fellow administrators in a discussion-based format to share ideas about what's working and strategies to overcome hurdles through action-oriented conversations.

Share what you know, take what you need.

**Sept. 28, 2023**

**1:30pm**



**Ideas for Staff  
 Collaboration**

**Oct. 26, 2023**

**1:30pm**



*Facilitated discussion.  
 Relevant and timely topic  
 to be determined by  
 participants*

**Nov. 30, 2023**

**1:30 pm**



*Facilitated discussion.  
 Relevant and timely topic  
 to be determined by  
 participants*



Click [HERE](#) or scan to  
 learn more & register

Questions?

Contact Rebecca Shea, Upstate PDRC Director  
 rshea@measinc.com

NEW



# Standards-Based Instruction Series

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR NYS  
RELIGIOUS & INDEPENDENT EDUCATORS

## Standards-Based Instruction Series: *Leveled Learning for Progress & Proficiency*



### About the Series

**"One Size Fits All"** is a phrase that we are all familiar with but may find challenging to avoid when designing instruction. All educators want what is best for their students; understanding, independence, success, and perseverance. Standards-Based learning provides transparency to your students, their families, and your administration in order to communicate clearly what students have learned and need to practice.

Join us to:

- develop a better understanding of standards-based learning;
- explore how to take initial steps toward creating leveled tasks based on a standard.

*This series will be led through the lens of a secondary math-content teacher, however, the concept of leveled learning is applicable to teachers in all content areas and grades.*

October 18, 2023, 4-5 pm

**In the first session**, we will work through evidence-based practices to unpack standards, identify "levels", and share assessment practices to begin making your classroom a place for aligned and effective learning.

**Unpacking Standards into Learning Levels**

**Differentiating for Deeper Learning**

October 25, 2023, 4-5 pm

**In the second session**, we will examine how evidence-based practices are the first step (or at least helpful) toward transitioning into a standards-based learning environment to begin differentiating on a deeper level for your students' learning needs.

November 1, 2023, 4-5 pm

**In the third session**, we will discuss formative vs. summative assessments and build off the previous two sessions; unpacking standards into learning levels, creating learning tasks, and designing assessments based on the learning standard.

**Assessments for Leveled Learning**

Led By:  
Karen Martin

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NEW

# Small Group Instruction Series

The Upstate Professional Development Resource Center

## Small-Group Instruction Series



### About the Series

When done well, small group work enhances individual development, equity in instruction, academic and social-emotional growth, and builds community. In this series, participants are invited to explore three topics related to small-group instruction. Participants are not required to attend all three sessions in the series. Although the content is connected, each session can stand alone.

Intended for K-12 teachers

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**

### ***Flexible Grouping Strategies***

**In the first session**, participants will explore the purpose and benefits of flexible grouping. Learn how to plan for and implement flexible grouping throughout the year, including how to prepare students to work in small groups. Learn strategies for configuring small groups that give all students access to the curriculum through meaningful interaction with their peers.

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023**

### ***Peer to Peer Collaborative Learning***

**In the second session**, participants will learn three strategies for promoting peer-to-peer and collaborative learning: Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS), Classwide Peer Tutoring (CWPT), and Reciprocal Peer Tutoring (RPT). Go beyond matching your strongest students with your struggling students, and learn strategies to ensure that all students have opportunities to contribute to and receive support from their small group interactions.

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

### ***Learning Centers & Station Teaching***

As a differentiation strategy, station teaching or learning centers provide teachers with a multitude of ways to promote independence, ensure equity in instruction, support academic and social-emotional growth, build community, and make learning fun. The key to success is knowing how to plan and manage centers effectively and efficiently. Discover how to make the most of small group learning, explore 3 models of station teaching, and learn planning & managing time-saving tips. Explore how learning centers can make your classroom less teacher-directed while meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of your students.

Series Led by:  
Diana Scarscelletta Straut

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Scan or Click



# Building Relationships

## STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING STRONG AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS FOR LEARNING

**Thursday, October 26, 2023, 4-5 pm**

Relationships matter for student learning. Students who feel comfortable, safe, and connected are often more willing to try and work harder in the classroom. Additionally, post-COVID and in our digital age, many students struggle with in-person relationships: teacher-to-student and peer-to-peer. Participants will learn strategies to build classroom relationships that will improve student motivation, learning, and engagement.

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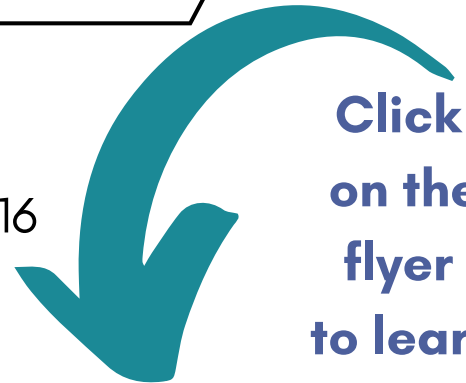
# Save the Date: RISE 2023



Starts 8am Wednesday, November 15  
Ends @ 12:30pm Thursday, November 16



Albany Marriott Hotel,  
189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205



Click  
on the  
flyer  
to learn  
more!

## Topics Include

AI's (Artificial Intelligence) integration  
Strategies for Overworked Principals  
Encouraging Student Leadership  
Strategic Scheduling to Help Close  
Achievement Gaps  
Promoting and Boosting Enrollment  
with Social Media  
Social Emotional Learning Strategies  
Mastering Difficult Situations as a  
School Leader  
*and*  
time to consult with NYSED  
representatives from various offices  
*And much more!*

**Check Out  
Our RISE Webpage  
HERE**

**Visit Our Website Here!**



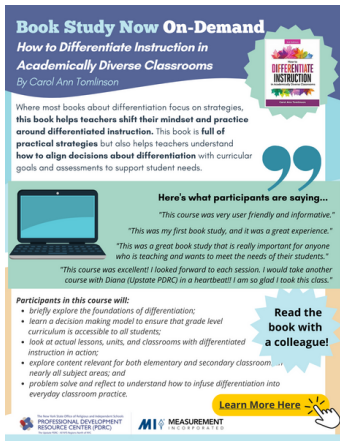
The flyer features a dark blue background with a white and green wave graphic at the top. It includes the logos for the N.Y.S. Coalition for Independent & Religious Schools and the PDRC. The main title 'RISE 2023 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE' is in large, bold, green and white letters. Below the title, there is a call to action for independent and religious school leaders, followed by the dates and location. A 'Live and In-Person!' section highlights the dates and location. An 'Early Bird Discount' section provides details on registration and hotel accommodations. A registration link is provided in a blue button. At the bottom, logos for Catapult Learning, Fordham University, and Measurement Incorporated are displayed.

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# On-Demand and Available Now: Inclusive Instructional Practices



## Book Study: *How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms*

Where most books about differentiation focus on only on strategies, this book helps teachers shift their mindset and practice around differentiated instruction. This book is full of practical strategies but also helps teachers understand how to align decisions about differentiation with curricular goals and assessments to support student needs.

Click the flyer to learn more, or click [HERE](#) to access this course.

### ***Differentiation Made Easier***

All learners deserve access to high-quality teaching and challenging academic content, but differentiating instruction for the many needs of students in today's classroom can seem daunting.

This course introduces a framework to guide teachers' planning and make differentiation easier.

Click [HERE](#) to access this course.

### ***Essential Assessment Practices***

This introductory course explores how to avoid a "one size fits all" grade based on a point system in the classroom. Learn practical strategies to identify learning targets, set goals, and allow for flexibility.

Click [HERE](#) to access this course.

### ***Accountable Talk to Increase Engagement***

Discussion plays an important role in the classroom but at times we do not know the best way to structure the conversation to get the biggest impact on learning. This course explores how using accountable talk can increase student engagement, retention, and the use of academic and content language.

Click [HERE](#) to access this course.

### ***Promoting Student Independence with Prompt Hierarchies & Natural Support***

This video is part of The Inclusive Practice Series (TIPS). It's considered a 'sapling' video, which means it's under 30 minutes and offers some tips and tools to build on what you already know about promoting independence in inclusive classrooms.

Click [HERE](#) to access this course.

### ***Collaboration and Co-Teaching to Support All Learners***

Interested in learning how to maximize the impact of the adults in your classroom? This course takes you through the what, why, and how of collaboration and co-teaching.

Click [HERE](#) to access this course.

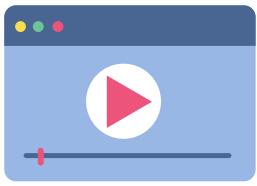
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# Looking for PD on your own time?

**We've got you covered with On-Demand!**

## Explore By Topic

### **New & Novice Teacher Academy Series**

- 1: Classroom Climate & Managing the Learning Environment
- 2: Creating a Student-Centered Classroom
- 3: Delivering High-Quality Learning Experiences for ALL Students
- 4: Assessment for Learning
- 5: Reflective Practice & Professional Growth

### **Mentoring Series**

*The Basics*  
*Customize for Your School*  
*Resources & Implementation*

### **Math Practices**

*Meaningful Math Play From The First Day*  
*Fluency & Number Sense: Practices to Promote a Growth Mindset*  
*Math Makeovers: Making Math Problems More Engaging*  
*Turn Your Classroom Into a Mathematical Playground*

### **Onboarding Series**

*Systems & Structures*  
*Curriculum & Instructional Supports*  
*Ongoing Support*

### **Writing Practices**

*Aligning Instruction: Unpacking Writing Standards*  
*Designing Checklists to Support Student Writing*  
*Using Mentor Texts to Improve Student Writing*

### **Inclusive Teaching Practices**

*Accountable Talk to Increase Engagement*  
*Differentiation Made Easier*  
*Collaboration & Co-Teaching to Support All Learners*  
*Essential Assessment Practices*  
*Promoting Student Independence with Prompt Hierarchies & Natural Support*

**Click HERE**  
 to Check Out  
 these & More



## **40 On-Demand Courses Available!**

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# VITAL Educator Program

*Virtual Implementation of Teaching and Learning*

## Accepting applications now through October 13th.

Apply now for NYSED's VITAL Educator Program-- a year-long professional learning opportunity designed to build the foundation for improving and expanding virtual learning opportunities in New York State.

Eligible applicants include:

- Current, professionally, or permanently certified NYS K-12 teachers, Administrators, Staff developers, and faculty members of educator preparation programs in New York institutions of higher education

Educators who complete all program requirements will receive a generous \$14,500 stipend and statewide designation as a VITAL Trainer at the conclusion of the PLC in July 2024. Click the flyer [or HERE](#) to learn more.



The flyer for the VITAL Educator Program features the NYSED logo and a photo of a student. It includes the following text:

**VITAL Educator Program**

Join the New York State Education Department (NYSED) VITAL (Virtual Implementation of Teaching and Learning) Educator Program and become an expert trainer in virtual and hybrid instruction.

*This innovative program will offer participants the opportunity to complete an eight month learning plan consisting of three course modules and a professional learning community. Those who successfully complete the program requirements will receive official designation by NYSED as a VITAL Trainer and a stipend of \$14,500.*

**VITAL EDUCATOR ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must be employed by a New York State school district, BOCES, charter school, non-public school, or a college or university, as:

- Teacher
- School/District Administrator
- Support Staff (e.g., professional learning coach, instructional technology specialist, school librarian, coordinator, counselor, social worker)
- Education Professor

Interested educators should scan the code below or use the following link to apply for the program and to find additional information:  
<https://www.nysed.gov/edtech/vital-educator-program>

Applications will close on: **October 13, 2023**

Questions about this program can be sent to [VITAL@nysed.gov](mailto:VITAL@nysed.gov)

Consider joining this exciting program to support remote and hybrid instruction in New York State.

SCAN ME

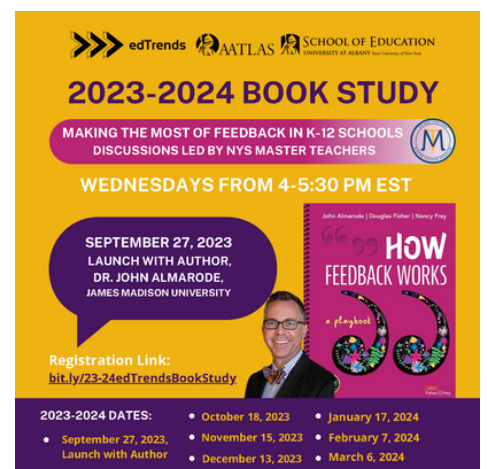
## Book Study: How Feedback Works

*by John T. Almarode, Douglas Fisher, and Nancy Frey*

Join NYS Master Teachers & SUNY Albany in a FREE ongoing PD event, a book discussion about feedback: what it is, why it isn't always effective, and how we as educators can improve the impact of the feedback we give, with particular attention to how we can better motivate and drive student learning.

This course will be held one Wednesday a month through March. The next meeting is October 18, from 4-5:30 pm.

Click the flyer to learn more, and register [here](#).



The flyer for the 2023-2024 Book Study features logos for edTrends, AATLAS, and the School of Education at SUNY Albany. It includes the following text:

**2023-2024 BOOK STUDY**

MAKING THE MOST OF FEEDBACK IN K-12 SCHOOLS  
DISCUSSIONS LED BY NYS MASTER TEACHERS

WEDNESDAYS FROM 4-5:30 PM EST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023  
LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR,  
DR. JOHN ALMARODE,  
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Registration Link:  
[bit.ly/23-24edTrendsBookStudy](https://bit.ly/23-24edTrendsBookStudy)

2023-2024 DATES:

- September 27, 2023, Launch with Author
- October 18, 2023
- November 15, 2023
- December 13, 2023
- January 17, 2024
- February 7, 2024
- March 6, 2024

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