

## National High School Center's Summer Institute

### *Navigating the High School Improvement Landscape: States' Roles in Building Better High Schools*

Wednesday, June 18, 2008–Friday, June 20, 2008

The Madison Hotel, Washington, DC

## AGENDA

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

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**3:00 pm–4:00 pm**     **Registration** – *Dolley Madison Ballroom Foyer*

**4:00 pm–5:30 pm**     **Pre-Session with the Regional Comprehensive Center Directors and the Regional Comprehensive Center High School Liaisons** – *Mt. Vernon Salon A*  
*Preview of the Summer Institute, Overview of Year Four Work Plan, New Products, Communities of Practice, and Walk-through of the National High School Center Web site enhancements. This session is intended for the Regional Comprehensive Centers' High School Liaisons, Regional Comprehensive Center Directors, and National High School Center staff.*

**5:30 pm**                 **INSTITUTE CONVENES**

**5:30 pm–6:30 pm**     **Welcome Reception** – *Dolley's Pantry and Mt. Vernon Salon B*  
*Performances by the Coolidge Senior High School Jazz Band, Washington, DC*

**6:30 pm–8:30 pm**     **Welcome and Dinner** – *Dolley Madison Ballroom*

Presenter:     **Joseph R. Harris**  
*Director, National High School Center*

#### **Keynote Presentations: Perspectives in Practice: Creating Better High Schools**

Presenters:     **Molly Howard**  
*Principal, Jefferson County High School, Louisville, GA*  
*2008 NASSP/Met Life High School Principal of the Year*

**Lewis H. Chappelle**  
*Teacher, James Monroe High School, North Hills, CA*  
*2008 California Teacher of the Year and 2008 National Teacher of the Year Finalist*

Closing

Remarks:     **Floretta McKenzie**  
*Senior Advisor, American Institutes for Research, and Founder, The McKenzie Group, Inc.*

## THURSDAY, JUNE 19

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**7:30 am–8:15 am**    **Breakfast** – *Dolley Madison Ballroom (Upper Level)*

**8:15 am–8:30 am**    **General Session: Welcome and Day Overview** – *Dolley Madison Ballroom*

Presenter:    **Jessica Heppen**  
*Deputy Director, National High School Center*

**8:30 am–10:15 am**    **General Session: A Framework for Mapping the System** – *Dolley Madison Ballroom*

*This session introduces the National High School Center Mapping Framework as a tool for thinking systemically about the broad range of initiatives that make up the high school improvement landscape. The framework, which is based on eight common elements of systemic school reform, provides a structure for understanding, aligning, and prioritizing these initiatives in order to develop coherent and contextually appropriate approaches to high school improvement at both state and local levels. The session will also explore effective practices and challenges in building institutional and professional capacity for strategic planning, implementation, and ongoing support of high school improvement efforts.*

Presenters:    **Joseph R. Harris**  
*Director, National High School Center*

**Dean Fixsen**  
*Research Professor, Division of Training, Research, Evaluation and Demonstration, USF Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute*

**10:15 am–10:30 am**    **Break** – *Dolley's Pantry*

**10:30 am–12:00 pm**    **Concurrent Small Group Sessions 1: Using the Mapping Framework to Better Understand Key Focus Areas**

*Participants will break into small groups in one of five high school priority areas where guest experts will discuss what is known from research and best practice about effective school-level practice in relation to the eight elements of the Mapping Framework. Facilitators will help the group (1) make connections between the respective priority areas and an overall vision for high school improvement; (2) ask key questions related to the research base; and (3) engage in a process for thinking systemically about state leadership, actions, and policies within the framework. These sessions will be repeated again after lunch so that each participant can attend two sessions.*

**Breakout 1: High School Literacy** – *Hamilton Salon B*

Guest Experts:    **Terry Salinger**  
*Managing Director and Chief Scientist for Reading Research, American Institutes for Research*

**Maria Santos**  
*Executive Director, New York City Board of Education Office of English Language Learners*

Facilitator: **Circe Stumbo**  
*President, West Wind Education Policy, Inc.*

**Breakout 2: Dropout Prevention – John Adams Salon A**

Guest Experts: **Nettie Legters**  
*Research Scientist, The Center for Social Organization of Schools at the Johns Hopkins University*

**Loujeania Bost**  
*Director, National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities*

Facilitator: **Libia S. Gil**  
*Senior Fellow, American Institutes for Research*

**Breakout 3: Tiered Intervention at the High School Level – John Adams Salon B**

Guest Experts: **Maurice McInerney**  
*Co-Principal Investigator and Co-Director, National Center on Response to Intervention*

**Daryl Mellard**  
*Co-Principal Investigator, National Center on Response to Intervention, and Associate Research Professor, University of Kansas*

Facilitator: **Albert L. Bennett**  
*Harold Washington Professor of Public Policy, Professor of Education, and Director, St. Clair Drake Center for African American Studies, Roosevelt University*

**Breakout 4: Transitions Out of High School – Mt. Vernon Salon A**

Guest Experts: **Robert J. Ivry**  
*Senior Vice President, MDRC*

**Jane Falls**  
*Coordinator, National Post-School Outcomes Center*

Facilitator: **Todd Flaherty**  
*Senior Consultant, National High School Center*

**Breakout 5: High School Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) – Mt. Vernon Salon B**

Guest Expert: **Steven J. Leinwand**  
*Principal Research Analyst, American Institutes for Research*

Facilitator: **Deanna Hill**  
*Policy Analyst, West Wind Education Policy, Inc.*

**12:00 pm–1:15 pm** **General Session and Luncheon: Team Sharing and Group Q&A – Dolley Madison Ballroom**

Facilitators: **Dean Fixsen**  
*Research Professor, Division of Training, Research, Evaluation and Demonstration, USF Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute*

**Joseph R. Harris**  
*Director, National High School Center*

**1:15 pm–2:45 pm** **Concurrent Small Group Sessions 2: Using the Mapping Framework to Better Understand Key Focus Areas**

*Repeat of the morning sessions.*

**Breakout 1: High School Literacy – Hamilton Salon B**

Guest Experts: **Terry Salinger**  
*Managing Director and Chief Scientist for Reading Research, American Institutes for Research*

**Maria Santos**  
*Executive Director, New York City Board of Education Office of English Language Learners*

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Guest Expert: **Steven J. Leinwand**  
*Principal Research Analyst, American Institutes for Research*

Facilitator: **Deanna Hill**  
*Policy Analyst, West Wind Education Policy, Inc.*

**2:45 pm–3:15 pm** **Break – Dolley’s Pantry**

**3:15 pm–4:15 pm** **General Session: Building a More Coherent Approach to High School Improvement: Linking National Research with State-Level Practice – Dolley Madison Ballroom**

*This session will focus on how mapping national high school improvement research and promising practices can provide a more coherent approach for state-level efforts to build better high schools. State and Regional Comprehensive Center representatives will also share their successes and lessons learned during recent mapping efforts.*

Presenters: **Becky Smerdon**  
*Principal Research Scientist, Vice President, and Deputy Director of U.S. Education and Workforce Development, Academy for Educational Development*

**Sheila Arredondo**  
*Program Associate, Southwest Comprehensive Center at WestEd*

**Maxine Daly**  
*Deputy Associate Superintendent, Arizona Department of Education*

Moderator: **José Martínez**  
*Assistant Superintendent, Racine Unified School District*

**4:15 pm–5:30 pm      Regional Comprehensive Centers/States Working Groups: Exploring the Landscape of High School Improvement Initiatives at Work in the States**

*Having gained familiarity with the Mapping Framework and the high school priority focus areas and national initiatives, participants will work together in regional teams to begin mapping their current and planned (or potential) state high school improvement initiatives to identify strategic alignments, gaps, and priority opportunities. Facilitators will be assigned to each breakout room to assist with this process.*

**Breakout 1 – Hamilton Salon B**

Facilitator:      **Circe Stumbo**  
*President, West Wind Education Policy, Inc.*

**Breakout 2 – John Adams Salon A**

Facilitator:      **Libia S. Gil**  
*Senior Fellow, American Institutes for Research*

**Breakout 3 – John Adams Salon B**

Facilitator:      **Deanna Hill**  
*Policy Analyst, West Wind Education Policy, Inc.*

**Breakout 4 – Mt. Vernon Salon A**

Facilitator:      **Todd Flaherty**  
*Senior Consultant, National High School Center*

**5:30 pm–6:30 pm      Meet and Mingle: Post Script Lounge, The Madison Hotel**

**6:30 pm                  Dinner on your own**

## FRIDAY, JUNE 20

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**7:15 am–8:00 am**     **Breakfast** – *Dolley Madison Ballroom (Upper Level)*

**8:00 am–8:30 am**     **General Session: Integrating the General and Special Education Landscapes for Building Better High Schools** – *Dolley Madison Ballroom*

*This session will explore the relationship and impact of both NCLB and IDEA on state and district high school improvement efforts and how school districts and states can benefit from aligning their implementation and compliance efforts and resources under both federal mandates to promote building better high schools.*

Presenter:     **Louis Danielson**

*Managing Director, American Institutes for Research*

*Former Director, Research to Practice Division, Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education*

**8:30 am–9:15 am**     **General Session: Going from Paper to Practice through Strategic Planning** – *Dolley Madison Ballroom*

*This session focuses on the development and successful execution of strategic statewide plans that can help promote and support successful high school improvement efforts. The presenter will share research and lessons learned about state and district high school improvement planning and implementation efforts and how the mapping elements can help ensure that these initiatives are both comprehensive and systemic. The session is intended to provide useful tips to participants and state teams who are engaged in developing action plans for building better high schools.*

Presenter:     **Monica Martinez**

*Vice President for Education Strategy, KnowledgeWorks Foundation*

**9:15 am–9:45 am**     **Break / Hotel Checkout** – *Dolley's Pantry/Hotel Registration*

**9:45 am–11:00 am**     **Regional Comprehensive Centers/States Working Groups: Strategic Planning**

*Reviewing what was gleaned from previous sessions, each Regional Comprehensive Center team will meet together to discuss and plan for next steps.*

**Breakout 1** – *Hamilton Salon B*

Facilitator:     **Circe Stumbo**

*President, West Wind Education Policy, Inc.*

**Breakout 2** – *John Adams Salon A*

Facilitator:     **Libia S. Gil**

*Senior Fellow, American Institutes for Research*

**Breakout 3 – John Adams Salon B**

Facilitator: **Deanna Hill**  
*Policy Analyst, West Wind Education Policy, Inc.*

**Breakout 4 – Mt. Vernon Salon A**

Facilitator: **Todd Flaherty**  
*Senior Consultant, National High School Center*

**11:00 am–12:15 pm Next Steps: Gallery Walk – Dolley Madison Ballroom**

*Regional Comprehensive Center teams will identify and report out the two next steps they plan to address after the conference.*

Facilitator: **Circe Stumbo**  
*President, West Wind Education Policy, Inc.*

**12:15 pm–12:30 pm Closing Remarks – Dolley Madison Ballroom**

Presenter: **Joseph R. Harris**  
*Director, National High School Center*

**12:30 pm–2:00 pm Box Lunches Available – Dolley’s Pantry**