

Applications now open: Competency-based and Learner-centered Professional Learning

Throughout the next three years, 1,600 South Dakota educators will be invited to apply for the opportunity to earn nine graduate credit by completing a series of online courses to increase their capacity in competency based, knowledge-rich, and whole child approaches to instruction to support a continuum of learning. Funding made possible through the South Dakota Department of Education's Rethinking K-12 Education Models (REM) grant.

Time commitment

- Participants must complete all coursework with the intent to implement learned strategies in their school/classroom.
- Seven courses for a total of nine credits (asynchronous: participants work at their own pace).
 - One credit = 15 hours of coursework
 - Two credits = 30 hours of coursework
- Teachers will be placed in cohorts using the Canvas learning management system. Courses will last approximately 6-8 weeks depending on the credits allocated.

Additional benefits

- Nine graduate credits or CEUs offered at not cost to completers
- Texts and resources supplied

To apply: Fill out [this application](#). Applications will be reviewed as they are received and rated on this [rubric](#). Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. The first cohort will begin on Feb. 1, 2021. Applicants will be notified of cohort placement one month prior to the course beginning. Applications are ongoing and will continue throughout the three-year period of the grant.

Memo of Understanding: If selected, participants will be asked to complete data questionnaires/interviews from Marzano Research.

Please contact Dr. Cari Kennedy (ckennedy@tie.net) for more information.

Course descriptions

A Learner Centered Approach: The Essential Elements (2 credits): Learn many of the important terms and how to explain them to families, educators, and administrators and establish a common language and understanding around customized and competency-based learning.

Learners & Families: Developing Understanding of the Whole Child (1 credit): Understand and design a whole child curriculum in practice and establish a common language with learners, families, and other educators.

Blended Instruction: Development & Implementation (1 credit): Understand and design blended instruction in practice and establish a common language with learners, families, and other educators.

Technology: Leveraging Tools for Instruction & Learning (1 credit): Understand the purpose, use, and benefits of technology applications in the classroom and establish a common language with learners, families, and other educators.

Competency Based Instruction: Curating and Creating Content/Curriculum (1 credit): Understand and build a competency-based curriculum in practice and establish a common language with learners, families, and other educators.

Competency Based Instruction: Authentic Assessment & Grading (1 credit): Understand and build a competency-based curriculum in practice and establish common and authentic assessments for all learners.

Learners & Families: Culturally Responsive and Trauma Informed Practices (2 credits): Understand and design a culturally responsive and trauma informed curriculum in practice and establish a common language with learners, families, and other educators.