

The following are points of consensus from the first meeting of the School Engagement Initiatives Faculty Planning Group on January 7, 2008.

1. The idea of a UGA/CCSD version of a Professional Development School bears further investigation.
2. The goal of a PDS is to improve education at all levels: for students in the schools, for UGA students pursuing careers as teachers or other careers working in schools, and for those currently employed as teachers in the schools. Additionally, the goal of a PDS is to foster joint programs and a general spirit of inquiry rooted in practice.
3. When we talk about improving student achievement, we mean more than just scores on standardized achievement tests.
4. We will take the following steps:
  - a. UGA faculty will talk to their colleagues in the program areas, either formally or informally, and bring information back to our next meeting. They will solicit ideas and information about the following topics:
    - i. What might be some possible topics or “hooks” (e.g. “Every Child is Gifted”) around which we might focus the work of a PDS?
    - ii. How might we structure programs which place UGA students in the schools? A more thorough list of things to talk about is included in a separate attachment, but in general, faculty are encouraged to discuss the following issues:
      1. How are the programs currently organized?
      2. What are the goals for the program?
      3. What components should be included (and excluded) in a UGA/CCSD version of a PDS?
  - b. CCSD personnel will begin to develop a procedure for determining which schools are the most likely candidates for serving as a PDS site. CCSD personnel will also initiate conversations at the district and school level about possible topics and “hooks” around which we might focus the work of a PDS.
5. We will meet again as a whole group. At that meeting we will:
  - a. Hear “reports” from program areas in response to the questions previously articulated.
  - b. Hear a “report” from CCSD.
  - c. Brainstorm a good, long list of possible topics or “hooks” for a PDS.
  - d. Decide whether subsequent meetings should be done by subgroups.
  - e. Whatever else we realize we need to do ☺