

Sample Schedule

Elementary Inquiry Summer Institute

inquirED



Dates: July 29-30th, 2021
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place: Chicago, IL

NOTE: The schedule provided below is a draft and subject to revision.

Day 1

Opening Keynote: TBD

Social Studies has been marginalized in the elementary grades. What are the causes and effects of this marginalization? Why do we need to ensure that elementary students have a strong basis in inquiry-based social studies?

Recommend For: All Attendees

Inquiry: Evidence and Experience

The evidence is clear: inquiry-based instruction engages students, develops cognitive capacity, and improves outcomes. In this session, we'll not only explore the theory behind inquiry and the evidence for it, but we'll dive into the experience of an inquiry unit. Participants will work through the inquiry process to build content knowledge and take informed action.

Recommend For: All Attendees

It's Not an Either/Or: Student Questions and Content Standards

How do we allow for student voice and choice while ensuring that learning targets are met? Inquiry-based teachers often want to foster student curiosities, but worry that "following the students" will mean abandoning content and standards. This session focuses on the development and ongoing use of student-generated questions to enhance student learning and support the unpacking of content standards.

Recommend For: All Attendees

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Day 2

Opening Keynote: Shanti Elangvoan, CEO & Founder, inquirED

Why do education policymakers and leaders separate knowledge from skills? Context from practice? It's a trend that not only flies in the face of the latest research into cognitive science but also drains the meaning and joy out of learning.

Recommend For: All Attendees

Supporting Sustained Investigation

If students are new to inquiry, they might not be used to sustaining their energy and interest over several weeks of investigation. It's hard work! There's a big payoff for this investment, though, because a sustained investigation allows students to make connections and derive meaning across an inquiry. In this session, we'll explore the tools and strategies to support students throughout a sustained investigation, examining methods of differentiating instruction, promoting collaboration, and integrating content area literacy instruction.

Recommend For: All Attendees

Taking Informed Action

It can be hard for teachers to make the shift to informed action during a unit. They can get stuck wondering: What makes a good project? How do I design a project and build it with students during class periods? How do I assess learning? In this session, participants will explore how to implement an informed action process that includes brainstorming protocols, student rubric generation, prototyping rules, feedback cycles, critique methods, and assessments. Participants will come away with a deeper understanding of how they can implement informed action - and a set of handouts, tools, and strategies that they can immediately apply with their students.

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Flex Sessions (under consideration for inclusion in the institute schedule)

Using Peer Feedback to Deepen Social Studies Content Knowledge

In this interactive session, participants will learn how to build a culture of critique in the classroom that involves students in the process of improving the work of their peers in meaningful ways. By the end of this session, participants will understand the critique process as an instructional tool to help students deepen their understanding of content.

Recommend For: All Attendees

Inquiry and Culturally Responsive Practice in Social Studies

Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) and inquiry-based practice have a strong connection: both prioritize the development of cognitive capacity through student-centered instruction. Discover the shared values, strategies, and practices used by both pedagogies and learn how to empower your teachers to implement CRT and inquiry-based practices in their social studies classrooms.

Recommended for: Instructional Leaders

A Framework for Inquiry PD: Practice-Based Professional Learning

Professional learning that empowers a shift to inquiry in social studies must connect to the day-to-day demands of the classroom, provide opportunities for collaboration, and utilize mechanisms for feedback. Find out how a Practice-Based approach to PD meets these requirements and builds capacity for inquiry in schools and districts.

Recommended for: Instructional Leaders

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Evaluate, Engage, Execute: Supporting a System-Wide Shift to Inquiry

In this interactive session, participants will learn how to build a culture of critique in the classroom that involves students in the process of improving the work of their peers in meaningful ways. By the end of this session, participants will understand critique processes as an instructional tool to help students deepen their understanding of content as well as an assessment tool to help them determine student understanding.

Recommend For: Instructional Leaders
