

# Tennessee High Priority Schools Conference

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Gatlinburg, Tennessee

## Draft Annotated Agenda

12:45-1:20 p.m.

### **Keynote**

REL Appalachia Director Robert Muller will discuss thinking about evidence and using research, as well provide as an overview of the What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guide, *Turning Around Chronically Low Performing Schools* in the context of Tennessee's challenges.

The four breakout sessions listed below will follow the following format:

Participants will watch a short selection from the REL Appalachia Turning Around Low-Performing Schools webinar featuring Dr. Rebecca Herman, one of the authors of the Practice Guide, followed by discussion with a school turnaround success story speaker. Participants will have the opportunity to ask the speaker questions and begin to create an action plan with the speaker and facilitator.

1:45-3:00 p.m.

### **Breakout Session 1: *Signal the need for dramatic change with strong leadership***

Facilitator: Bud Spillane, CNA Education

Principal: \*TBD

After watching the video clip, the principal will share his success story in relation to leadership. Participants will discuss the connections between research and this story of action, making connections between the practice guide and the story. Facilitators and the principal will help participants begin to fill out the Doing What Works Skills Leadership Needs Assessment.

### **Breakout Session 2: *Maintain a consistent focus on improving instruction***

Facilitator: Keith Brewer, Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents

Principal: \*TBD

After watching the video clip, the principal will share his success story in relation to instruction. Participants will discuss the connections between research and this story of action, making connections between the practice guide and the story. Facilitators and the principal will help participants begin to fill

out the Doing What Works Knowledge and Skills Inventory, focusing on instruction.

**Breakout Session 3: *Make visible improvements early in the school turnaround process (quick wins)***

Facilitator: Lydotta Taylor, EdVenture Group

Principal: \*TBD

After watching the video clip, the principal will share his success story in relation to quick wins. Participants will discuss the connections between research and this story of action, making connections between the practice guide and the story. Facilitators and the principal will help participants begin to fill out the Doing What Works Identifying Potential Quick Wins and Planning for the Implementation of Quick Wins worksheets.

**Breakout Session 4: *Build a committed staff***

Facilitator:

Sherri Beshears-McNeely, Collaborative for Teaching And Learning

Principal: \*TBD

After watching the video clip, the principal will share his success story in relation to staff. Participants will discuss the connections between research and this story of action, making connections between the practice guide and the story. Facilitators and the principal will help participants begin to fill out the Doing What Works Knowledge and Skills Inventory, focusing on staff.