



GREEN SCHOOLS NATIONAL NETWORK

Educator Academy: Rigorous, Relevant, and Rooted in Place

June 26 @ 1:00 pm - June 28 @ 1:00 pm EDT | Common Ground High School, Urban Farm, and Environmental Education Center in New Haven, Connecticut

Join us at Common Ground High School, Urban Farm, and Environmental Education Center in New Haven, Connecticut, for GSNN’s Educator Academy. Immerse yourself in rigorous, purposeful learning that is standards-driven, place-based, and building leaders for a more just and sustainable environment. This year’s academy will mobilize the 4PBL framework as an instructional tool for planning Phenomena, Place, Problem, and Project-Based Learning. Using Common Ground’s exemplary work around composting, urban agriculture, and food and environmental justice as a case study, participants will delve into a collaborative design process to create model projects they can implement in their home schools. School teams and individual educators are welcome. Don’t miss this opportunity to explore Common Ground’s unique place and model for transformative learning.

Admission:

GSNN Members: \$0.00 | Non Members: \$300.00

REGISTER TODAY



Detailed Agenda

Aspirations

- ◇ Deepen understanding of the 4PBL framework as a vehicle for engaging students in rigorous and relevant learning.
- ◇ Design experiences using the 4PBL framework that foster curiosity, problem-solving, and student leadership

Learning Targets

- ◇ How do you scaffold student learning from phenomenon to place to problem-based projects? school board; families; all sectors of the school district; and community partners.

Learning Objectives

- ◇ I can integrate urban agriculture/schoolyard themes and practices into the core content curriculum.
- ◇ I can leverage compelling issues to empower students to implement sustainable solutions within their classrooms and communities.
- ◇ I can evaluate the intentional role that phenomena, places, projects, and play in the progression of learning in a 4BPL unit focused on sustainable food systems.
- ◇ I can design educational experiences that align with standards, enhance students' content knowledge, establish conceptual foundations, and develop problem-solving skills in a real-world context.
- ◇ I can design student-facing scaffolds to make transformative learning accessible to all.



Wednesday, June 26, 2024 Schedule

Time	Activity	Description
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Gather and Chatter	Participants meet and get introduced to each other, and the Summit experience
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Opening Circle	Welcoming remarks from the Common Ground Team will orient participants to the context of CGHS. The team will then discuss the central role of the farm within the organization’s history, vision, and mission.
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Phenomena: Immersion into Common Ground	Exploration of the campus and the observable practices, focusing on the interaction between the school and the farm systems
2:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Place: Farm Slice Experience	The farm team leads the rotation through stations to develop background knowledge about the interconnections within the farm system. The sustainable farm system teaches Participants about the symbiotic cycling of matter and energy. They will be pushed to think about how projects contrasting Common Ground with the modern industrial food system could manifest as projects in core content classes.
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Debrief	Small group, followed by whole group debrief.
6:30 PM	Downtown New Haven	Pizza in New Haven



Thursday, June 27, 2024 Schedule

Time	Activity	Description
8:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Opening Circle	Following an icebreaker, reflections, and implications about the pedagogical process of transitioning from phenomena to place will be shared.
8:45 AM - 10:30 AM	Project: Food Story	Participants will complete a project focused on their involvement in the modern industrial food system, learning about its issues and potential solutions.
10:45 AM - 11:15 AM	Review of Common Ground 4PBL Unit	Participants will be given the 2024-2024 draft of the Common Ground Unit 1 - 4 PBL Curriculum document to review. The Common Ground team will share how the progression of projects in different classes builds toward the culminating exhibit.
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Problem-Solving: Strengthening Family Food Night	Participants will participate in a boxing protocol to help brainstorm potential adaptations to increase the unit's authenticity and relevance. Common Ground Students will also participate and provide feedback to the adult learners.
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch On-site	
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Fish Bowl	Listening protocol centered around lingering questions about the process, logistics, and evolution of project-based learning at Common Ground.
1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	4 PBL Project Design	Selecting a phenomenon and place within your local school context. Brainstorming opportunities using the Surroundings Survey and Asset Mapping frameworks.
12:45 PM - 2:30 PM	4 PBL Project Time	Once a topic has been selected, expectations for student learning and content projects are flushed out. The 4 PBL Criteria Checklist will be available to scaffold the process.



Thursday, June 27, 2024 Schedule

Time	Activity	Description
2:45 PM	Optional Consultancy: Choosing a Topic	A consultancy protocol will be facilitated to support participants having trouble deciding on the anchoring phenomenon for their unit.
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Speed Dating Individual Feedback	Participants will give and receive three rounds of feedback on the draft of their 4PBL framework for the unit with a specific focus on relevance to their students.
4:30 PM	Closing Circle	Opportunity to reflect on lessons learned and inspiration being taken forward.
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Optional Hike	Optional hike experience to the neighboring West Rock Overview.



Friday, June 28 2024 Schedule

Time	Activity	Description
8:30 AM	Opening Circle & Ice Breaker	What is something or someone who has inspired you this week?
8:45 AM - 9:30 AM	4 PBL Research: Text-Text Connections	Participants will engage in a text-based protocol using research around the 4PBL Model. What are the critical steps in the process that need to be sequenced?
9:40 AM - 10:45 AM	Collaborative Project Design Work Time	In content-like teams, participants will develop unit standards and project alignment using the Rigor column of the 4PBL checklist.
10:50 AM - 11:45 AM	Collaborative Project Design Work Time	In phenomena-like teams, participants will develop ideas for community partnerships and discuss how students' learning will align with the problems they are solving within their communities.
11:45 AM - 12:15 AM	Public Sharing	Participants will provide feedback to each other using the Praise, Questions, Suggest model.
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch On-Site	
1:00 PM	Submission and Certification Process	Plans for ongoing collaboration, 4PBL Community of Practice, Certificates
1:30 PM	Closing	Sharing of celebrations, feedback, and future intentions.





Dress Code:

Dress code for the entirety of the Educator Academy is business casual.

Lodging:

Courtyard by Marriott New Haven at Yale

30 Whalley Ave, New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 777-6221

[Book your group rate for Common Ground Educator Academy](#)

Hotel Marcel New Haven, Tapestry Collection by Hilton

500 Sargent Dr, New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 780-7800

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