



**GREEN SCHOOLS
NATIONAL NETWORK**

Site Summit: Empowering Students and Building Agency: Empowering Change Makers Through Place-Based Education

April 15-16, 2025 | Prairie Crossing Charter School

Join us for a transformative 1.5-day professional learning workshop hosted by the Green Schools National Network and Prairie Crossing Charter School, a recipient of the Best of Green Schools award and a Green Ribbon School. This workshop is designed to empower Natural Leaders and Change Makers through place-based learning, guided by seasoned educators with over 25 years of experience integrating sustainability into project-based learning.

Through engaging activities and collaborative discussions, this workshop will provide you with concrete examples of high-quality place-based learning. You'll critically examine teaching practices as tools for continuous improvement, leaving with a robust understanding of:

- ◇ The importance of a shared vision in fostering a sustainable and equitable future for all students and their families.
- ◇ How to utilize content standards to develop an interdisciplinary education that leverages phenomena, place, and project- and problem-based learning, allowing students to

Admission:

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

REGISTER TODAY



Detailed Agenda

Aspirations

- ◇ To cultivate a community of practice that supports continuous improvement in teaching and learning.
- ◇ To empower educators with the tools and knowledge needed to drive impactful change in their schools.
- ◇ To foster partnerships that enhance students' learning experiences and community engagement.
- ◇ To deepen understanding of the 4PBL framework as a vehicle for engaging students in rigorous and relevant learning

Learning Objectives

- ◇ I can identify the elements of a green, healthy, sustainable school.
- ◇ I can explain how a shared vision creates the culture needed for a sustainable and just future for all.
- ◇ I can analyze how leadership, facilities, curriculum, and climate work together to shape a healthy and equitable school district.
- ◇ I can evaluate the role of phenomena, places, projects, and play in the progression of learning within 4PBL units.
- ◇ I can design educational experiences that align with standards, enhance content knowledge, and develop real-world problem-solving skills.



Tuesday, April 15, 2025 Agenda

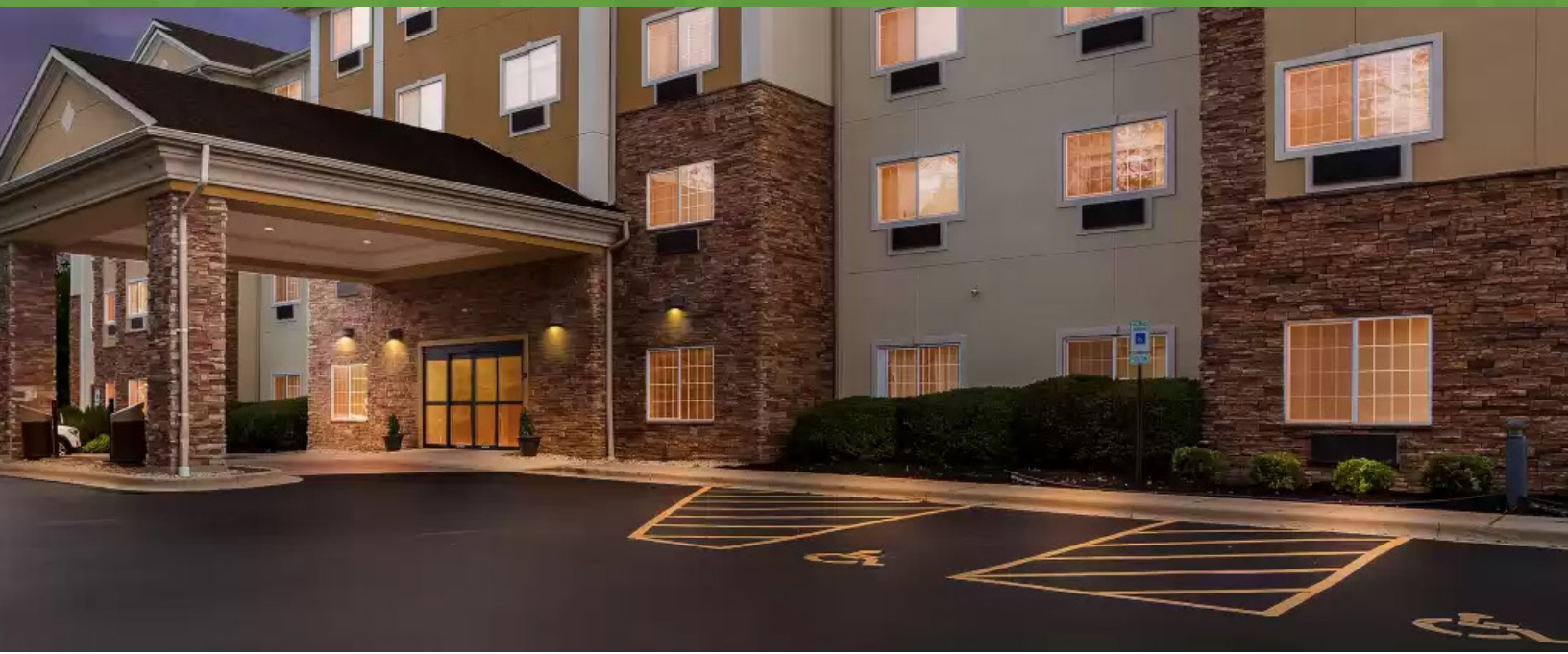
Time	Activity	Description
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Gather and Chatter	Participants settle in, meet each other, and begin networking.
8:15 AM – 9:00 AM	Opening Circle	Welcoming remarks from the Prairie Crossing Team, orienting participants to the school’s unique context, providing an overview of the seminar, framing learning intentions, and participating in an ice-breaker
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Immersion Experience: Campus Scavenger Hunt	In small groups, participants explore various campus features and learn how they contribute to sustainability, hearing directly from students about their experiences.
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Strategies to Connect with Nature, Community, and Ourselves	Participants will explore PCCS strategies for connecting students with the natural world throughout their development. They will engage with students and staff to understand how the CARES framework (Collaborative, Aware, Respectful, Empowered, Sustainable) shapes the school culture. Ambassadors will highlight how facilities and support services foster the growth of Natural Leaders
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Lunch On-Site	
12:30 PM – 12:45 PM	An Introduction to David Sobel	David Sobel presents key concepts from his new book, <i>Childhood and Nature</i> , discussing its relevance to the mission of PCCS.
12:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Pleasured-Based Learning Expert Panel Feedback	Presentations from PCCS students and teachers about their place-based units, followed by interactive critique sessions where participants analyze project-based learning units in need of refinement.
3:00 PM – 3:45 PM	Application	Participants evaluate local learning opportunities within their community using the Assessment Mapping framework.
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM	Closing	Small group discussions followed by a whole group debrief and closing circle
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Book Release & Signing	Attend the book release event, network, and share insights with other educators and community members.



Wednesday, April 16, 2025 Agenda

Time	Activity	Description
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Gather & Chatter	Participants share reflections on their previous day's learning.
8:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Out and About: An Exploration of Curriculum and Instruction	Student and teacher ambassadors introduce key curriculum elements at each grade level, exploring classrooms, outdoor learning spaces, and student work displays.
9:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Planning a Place-Based Case Study	Participants work independently, drawing inspiration from PCCS's implementation of the 4PBL model. They will give and receive feedback on ideas for developing or refining place-based units
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Profile of A 6th Grade Place-Based Learning Unit (David Sobel)	A presentation of a carefully designed, high-quality, place-based learning experience that highlights essential elements of effective curriculum design for middle school-aged students.
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch On-site	
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM	Closing	Opportunity to reflect on lessons learned and inspiration being taken forward.





Dress Code:

Dress code for the entirety of the Site Summit is business casual.

Lodging:

Comfort Suites Grayslake near Libertyville North

1775 East Belvidere Road, Grayslake, IL, 60030
(847) 223-5050

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