

Outline of Activities

Systemic Alignment Strand

Session 1A (about 30 minutes)

- Four Corners Exercise
This is an activity to get participants thinking about ideas and terms important to systemic alignment; it also allows participants to explore the many nuances of language and usage, and to come to agreements about what they will mean and focus on in ensuing conversation.

A statement is read, such as “Children and adults learn in the same ways.” Participants vote with their feet whether they agree strongly, agree, disagree, or disagree strongly. All of those who agree strongly go to one corner of the room, those who agree go to another; those who disagree go to a third corner, and those who disagree strongly go the fourth corner of the room.

Discussion follows regarding why each group feels as they do about the statement.

Session 1B (2 hours) – Explore notions of alignment

- Brief review of alignment criteria
- Exercise coding Depth of Knowledge of five Texas Standards Grade 8 and of 10 TAAS grade 8 items (see handouts)
- Short discussion
- Break into five discuss content focus criteria (20 minutes)
- Jigsaw to four groups to discuss other four criteria

Session 2 (2 hours) – Examine components of system

- Complete Component Map Worksheet#1 (see handout)
- Break group into five groups—one for each component
 - Curriculum
 - Instruction
 - Professional Development
 - Accountability
 - Leadership

Each group identifies different elements (major activity, unit of analysis, content topic, depth of knowledge, level links, standards) for that component.

- Groups report out during the last 20 minutes

Session 3 (2 hours) – Explore how do you gather information about alignment

- Complete a worksheet building on the Component Map (see Worksheet #2) that allows participants to put into practice comparing alignment of components

Identify the following:

Common unit of comparison (see alignment criteria) of two or more components

Indicators of common unit of comparisons

Source of information
Instrument
Acceptable level for comparison