

High Schools of the Future II
October 12, 2006

Call for Presenters Guidelines

The Massachusetts Department of Education, the Center for Collaborative Education, and the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy are soliciting proposals from school teams for our upcoming *High Schools of the Future II* conference. This conference is a follow-up event to our successful *High Schools of the Future* conference held in January 2006. This event is intended to help school and district leaders develop next steps in high school redesign and to help improve the state's graduation and college readiness rates.

General Information

The High Schools of the Future Conference II will be held on October 12, 2006 at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough. The program will primarily consist of seven concurrent morning workshops and five concurrent afternoon workshop sessions. In addition, there will be a morning keynote speaker and a luncheon keynote speaker. This call for presenters is to invite **high school practitioners and/or administrators** to be workshop presenters for the morning and afternoon concurrent workshop sessions.

Important Dates

Submission deadline: Extended to August 31, 2006 (late proposals will not be accepted)

Notification of acceptance by: September 15, 2006

General Conference Topics

- High school restructuring
- Literacy across the curriculum
- Scheduling (block scheduling, common planning time for teachers)
- Building community support for changing/restructuring high schools
- Identifying the content and expectations of a college prep curriculum for all students
- Closing the math achievement gap
- Student support /systems of extra help
- Challenging students in their senior year
- Dual enrollment / Early College programs
- Addressing issues of race, class, language and the achievement gap
- Incorporating electives and extra-curricular activities into a small learning community

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals for workshop sessions should include opportunities for participants to exchange information and/or work on a topic or problem with teams from their schools/districts. Workshop presentations will be approximately 70 minutes in length and will be scheduled according the following guidelines:

- 20 minutes maximum of presentation
- 30 minutes of interactive activity (including practical materials that attendees can take back to their schools and use)
- 20 minutes of Q & A

Proposals should be 500 to 1000 words (two to four pages), and contain the information that appears on the attached form.

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be reviewed by at least two individuals from the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Center for Collaborative Education, and the Rennie Center. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Topic:** importance of issues, relevance to program themes, degree of innovation
- **Contribution to the field:** models of success, models of “lessons learned”
- **Relevance:** to audience, other contexts and school settings
- **Written proposal:** quality of writing, clarity, logic, organization
- **Workshop format:** appropriateness of format to content or issues
- **Opportunities for interaction:** opportunities for contributions from audience or exchange of multiple perspectives

Inquiries

General inquiries regarding the Conference may be directed to Colleen Heffernan at cheffernan@renniecenter.org.

Directions for Submission

Please mail your proposal to the address provided below **by August 31, 2006** or email it to: cheffernan@renniecenter.org.

Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy

131 Mount Auburn Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

Attn: Proposal Review Committee

We will confirm receipt of your proposal by email. If you do not receive confirmation, please contact Colleen Heffernan at cheffernan@renniecenter.org.

High Schools of the Future II: Lessons from Reforming Schools

October 12, 2006, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Marlborough, MA

Proposal Form

Primary presenter name:

Primary presenter title:

Name and title of co-presenters:

1)

2)

School District/Agency/Other:

Mailing address:

City:

State: MA

Zip:

Phone:

Cell:

Personal/summertime email:

(All communication will be by email. We must have your summer email address.)

All proposals must include:

1. Title of your session (5-10 words).
2. Presentation format:
 - a. Lecture
 - b. Panel
 - c. Other (please describe)
3. Conference topic to be addressed in this presentation (see list provided in Request for Presenters Guidelines).
4. A brief summary of the session (This will be used in the conference program. Please be concise - 2-4 sentences).
5. A brief presenter biography for the conference program (2-4 sentences each).
6. A description of your session written in a manner that will sell it. Include a description of how you identified the issue and its solutions, what you have done to implement those solutions, and what effect those changes have had.
7. A list of the big ideas that attendees will be able to take back and implement in their schools.
8. Describe the interactive activity(ies) to be conducted with participants.
9. Provide an outline or agenda for the presentation.
10. What audio/visual equipment will you require? Please list all that apply.
 - Overhead projector
 - LCD projector
 - Easel with flip-chart paper
 - Other (please describe):