



The School Reform Initiative creates transformational learning communities fiercely committed to educational equity and excellence.

Critical Friends Group (CFG) Coaches Institutes

Roger Clapp Innovation School – June 23-27, 2014

Evelyn G. Pitcher Curriculum Resource Lab, Eliot Pearson Children's School – July 14-18, 2014

Community Charter School of Cambridge – July 21-25, 2014

Boston Collegiate Charter School – August 4-8, 2014

Public Schools of Brookline – August 11-15, 2014



Critical Friends Groups (CFGs) are cadres of teachers and/or administrators who commit themselves to learning - with and from one another. Each CFG has a coach or facilitator who helps the group build trust by engaging in meaningful work while providing a safe environment for taking risks. This person is a member of the group, while helping others learn the skills that promote reflection, innovation, and making the work of teaching visible.

The CFG Institute is designed to give participants the background information, skills and practice necessary to effectively coach a Critical Friends Group. Participants leave with the tools and insights necessary for responsive facilitation. Those who are interested in being part of a CFG, and/or administrators who are interested in supporting this type of teacher-directed professional development, should attend. During the week, participants:

- Learn how to build and sustain a learning community among colleagues
- Assemble a resource kit of protocols designed to make effective use of collaboration time
- Practice giving authentic feedback on student work, curriculum, and educator dilemmas
- Learn techniques for facilitating text-based conversations and reflective dialogues
- Engage in conversations about how issues of equity affect the ways principals lead, teachers teach, and students learn
- Explore how to reflect on and document teacher and student growth

Three Graduate Credits available for an additional \$275

Gene Thompson-Grove has been coaching CFGs, supporting schools and districts in the development of professional learning communities since 1990. She works with educators to build their capacity for facilitative leadership, and has been leading national CFG seminars since 1995, when she was one of the founders of NSRF at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. She is a Founding Board member of the School Reform Initiative (SRI), and is a current Board member of SRI.

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Register at <http://www.schoolreforminitiative.org/events/>