

Creating a *Smart, Safe* 21st Century School

Activity Directions

The hallmark of 21st Century learning is the development of **deep understanding** rather than the memorization of facts and information. Thus, these monthly activities were designed to focus and extend the 21st century learning for you and your staff for the remainder of the school year.

As you work to create a *Smart, Safe* 21st century school, there are some *critical understandings* that all staff members must have around 5 essential components – instruction, student development, school practices, culture and curriculum.

To assist with the systemic teaching/learning process, it is expected that these activities be built into your monthly professional development meetings as follows:

Instruction – February
Student Development – March
Effective School Practices – April
School Culture – May
Curriculum - June

You will use the designated “teaching paper” which outlines reflective questions around the essential component focus for that month. The overall goal of each activity to reach consensus on the answer(s) to the question in the **center** of the graphic and “re-teach” this information to your staff as you work through the process.

To generate rich dialogue and engage all members of your school in the learning:

- a. Divide your staff divided into small ‘purposeful’ work teams for each activity.
- b. Give each team a copy of the ‘teaching paper’ for the month.
- c. Allow these teams time to think about, discuss, and respond to the questions posed in the boxes *around* the central question.
- d. Upon completion, each team must reach a consensus on the answer to the central question.
- e. Provide flip chart paper to document the group response to the final answer of the central question.
- f. Have each team post their final answer along with the ‘teaching paper’ around the room to reference during discussion.
- g. Have teams report out to the rest of the groups.
- h. Use the answers provided to engage your staff in the dialogue that will deepen their understanding of *Smart, Safe* 21st Century Schools.
- i. Build upon the learning each month as you repeat these steps around the new focus area.