



January 8, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to announce the AERO's 20<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Institute, which will be held during the week of June 23-28, 2024, at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. The AERO Summer Institute is supported by the Office of Overseas Schools (A/OPR/OS). The purpose of the institute is to provide teachers and administrators in overseas schools with the skills and knowledge needed to develop and implement standards-based K-12 curricula. The work will be based on the validated standards developed by Project AERO ([www.projectaero.org](http://www.projectaero.org)) and the "Guidance for 2022-23", also available on the Project AERO website.

Six of the workshops (Math K-5, Math 6-10, English/ Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and World Language) will focus on developing an accelerated curriculum based on "critical elements"; creating assessment strategies; and identifying appropriate resources to support implementation. For these workshops, priority acceptance will be given to school teams in a subject area who are working in schools that have adopted and implemented the AERO Standards Framework and have experience in the "Understanding by Design (UBD)" approach to curriculum development.

One additional workshop will be offered: Academic Leaders. This workshop is intended for Heads of Schools, Principals, and Curriculum Coordinators who are responsible for planning or implementing an American standards-based curriculum. The foci of the workshop will be how to support the implementation of an accelerated curriculum; identify "critical elements"; design assessments; and review the role of the academic leader in the current environment.

The number of spaces available in each workshop are limited and preference will be given to school teams participating in in the same subject area. To register for AERO's Summer Institute, please click on the following link <https://forms.office.com/g/qfshvPNcuE> to submit your application.

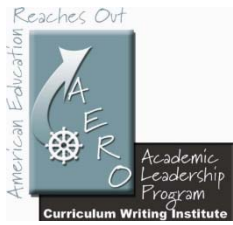
All workshops will be conducted face-to-face from 8:30a.m.-4:00p.m. EST, Monday, June 26-Friday, June 30. The opening session will be at 6:00p.m. on Sunday, June 25. Participants are expected to participate each day from Monday through Friday. Certificates will be awarded only to those completing each day's session. There is no cost to participate in the 2024 AERO Summer Institute.

Please ask each applicant to review the program and to complete the online registration form. **Registrations must be received by the Office of Overseas Schools by March 4, 2024. Participants will be informed of their selection during mid to late March.** The AERO Summer Institute has been designed by educational practitioners for other educators. We hope that it meets the needs of your faculties and schools and assists you in improving the educational opportunities and curriculum of your school.

Sincerely,

Mark Ulfers  
Director  
Office of Overseas Schools  
U.S. Department of State

Beatrice H. Cameron  
Consultant  
American Education Reaches Out



## Navigating the Path to Success: Building and Supporting Instructional Coherence

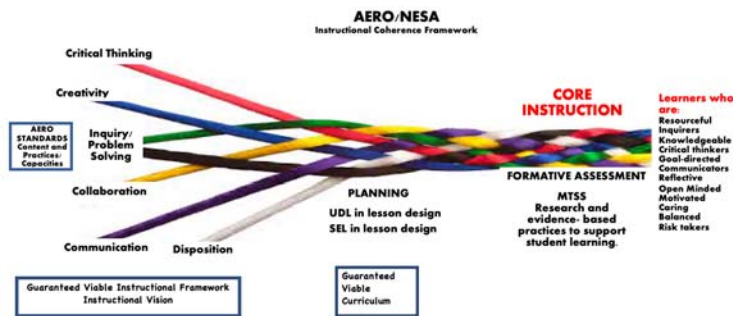
Facilitators

Shirley Droese and Erma Anderson

Join us for a transformative workshop on navigating the path to success by building and supporting instructional coherence. In today's educational landscape, it is essential for instructional leaders to have a clear understanding of how to align and structure instructional practices to maximize student achievement and growth.

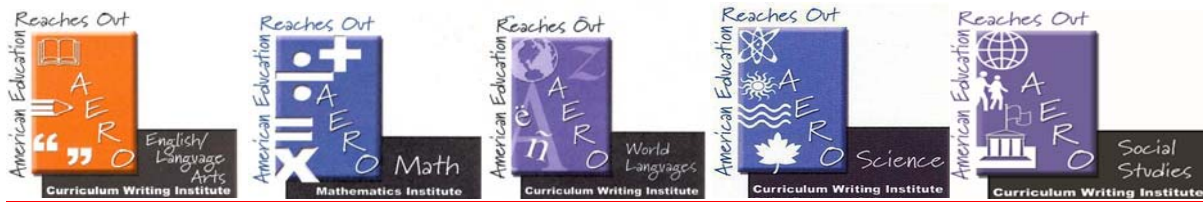
The workshop will provide participants with the tools, strategies, and insights needed to create a cohesive instructional framework that fosters student learning and engagement. Through interactive discussions, collaborative activities, and practical examples, participants will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complex process of building instructional coherence.

If you are an instructional leader seeking to promote a culture of ongoing professional learning, this workshop is designed to meet your needs. Together, we will explore key elements of instructional coherence, such as developing an instructional vision, the critical components of a Guaranteed Viable Curriculum (GVC) and planning for core instruction. We will share strategies for supporting teachers in integrating UDL (Universal Design for Learning) principles, SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) competencies, formative assessment, and MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) within their core instruction. Integrating UDL, SEL, MTSS, and formative assessment into core instruction is crucial for instructional coherence as it ensures that all students have equitable access to high-quality instruction and support. The integration creates a seamless and purposeful learning experience for students, where their diverse needs and strengths are acknowledged and accommodated.



Participants will leave with a clear roadmap and actionable steps to build and support instructional coherence in their schools. Don't miss this opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the path to success by building and supporting instructional coherence. Sign up your leadership team for this AERO professional learning opportunity. Please complete your registration form using the following link <https://forms.office.com/g/qfshvPNcuE?origin=lpLink> by March 4, 2024.

If you have any questions please contact David Chojnacki, AERO Project Director, at [davidnathens@gmail.com](mailto:davidnathens@gmail.com) or Bea Cameron, Consultant, at ([bhcameron@aol.com](mailto:bhcameron@aol.com)) **Registrations must be received by the Office of Overseas Schools by March 4, 2024. Participants will be informed of their selection during mid to late March.**



The 2024 AERO Summer Institute will bring together educators from around the world to better understand the AERO Framework and to explore the critical elements with emphasis on mastering lesson planning for core instruction. The Institute will run from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Monday, June 24 through noon on Friday, June 28, 2024; there will also be a welcome dinner on Sunday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m. The primary audience for this institute is educators working in schools that have adopted and implemented the AERO Standards Framework and who have experience in “Understanding by Design”.

### Outcomes

Participants will leave the institute with a deeper understanding of the AERO Framework and with the skills and knowledge to craft student-centered lesson plans in line with the critical elements of the discipline and core curriculum. They will also be empowered to bring greater instructional coherence to their educational practices.

Participants will learn to:

- Set clear and measurable learning objectives that guide the lesson planning process, ensuring alignment with educational standards.
- Discover innovative techniques and strategies to actively engage students, fostering a dynamic classroom environment.
- Integrate formative assessments seamlessly into lesson plans, enabling continuous feedback and monitoring of student progress.
- Tailor lesson plans to accommodate diverse learning styles and levels, ensuring all students have equitable access to education.

Over the course of the week, teachers delve into the art of lesson planning for core instruction, concentrating on objective clarity, engagement strategies, and assessment integration. Practical exercises, discussions, and hands-on activities provide participants with the tools to design student-centered lesson plans that foster meaningful learning experiences. The workshop's ultimate aim is to bolster educators' skills in crafting lessons that ensure every student reaches their full potential, making certain that no learner is left behind.

Note: Preference will be given to schools that send teams to the Summer Institute.

Please complete your registration form using the following link <https://forms.office.com/g/qfshvPNcuE?origin=IprLink> by March 4, 2024.

If you have any questions please contact David Chojnacki, AERO Project Director, at [davidnathens@gmail.com](mailto:davidnathens@gmail.com) or Bea Cameron, Consultant, at ([bhcameron@aol.com](mailto:bhcameron@aol.com)) **Registrations must be received by the Office of Overseas Schools by March 4, 2024. Participants will be informed of their selection during mid to late March.**