

STEM Curriculum

The FRSC is proud to advance the teaching and learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Through the implementation of project-based learning, collaboration among educators, the sharing of best practices, and mentoring opportunities through parent and community involvement, the First Ring works to promote 21st century skills within the STEM curriculum.

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Strengthening Leadership to Improve Education

About the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative

The First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative (FRSC) is an association of suburban school superintendents whose school districts surround the City of Cleveland, Ohio. The FRSC was established in 2000 to address the unique educational challenges of First Ring school districts, including poverty, mobility, cultural diversity, and efforts to close the achievement gap by reducing disparities in students' academic performance. The FRSC is composed of sixteen school districts that collectively serve more than 69,000 students. It includes the following members:

- Bedford
- East Cleveland
- Maple Heights
- Berea
- Euclid
- Parma
- Brooklyn
- Fairview Park
- Richmond Heights
- Cleveland Heights-University Heights
- Garfield Heights
- Shaker Heights
- Cuyahoga Heights
- Lakewood
- South Euclid-Lyndhurst
- Warrensville Heights



FRSC GOALS

Based on the notion that "we're smarter together," the purpose of the FRSC is to collectively address common challenges that affect students and families.

Through networking and peer support, professional development, advocacy, and strategic initiatives, the FRSC seeks to strengthen the leadership capacity of First Ring superintendents and members of their respective administrative teams to improve the lives of students and families in the school districts they serve. To accomplish this, the FRSC has established the following goals:

- Identify areas of mutual concern and collectively develop strategies to address these issues.
- Collaborate in professional development, skills training, and the sharing of best practices to improve learning outcomes.
- Share practices that address issues related to poverty, mobility, cultural diversity, and the achievement gap.
- Develop programs to improve learning experiences for students living in First Ring school districts.
- Support networks of colleagues with similar roles.
- Enhance communication among school districts.

Initiatives

To facilitate these goals, superintendents meet monthly to address common issues. In addition, colleagues of similar roles – including pupil services directors, curriculum directors, public relations/community relations personnel, and safety/security personnel – meet regularly to address challenges pertaining to their areas of responsibility. Under this arrangement, the FRSC has initiated the following major projects:

- First Ring Leadership Academy
- Student Wellness Project
- Math Achievement Project
- New Student Welcome Project
- STEM Curriculum



The focus is on the unique challenges of First Ring school districts.



First Ring Leadership Academy

Developed in conjunction with Cleveland State University's College of Education and Human Services, the First Ring Leadership Academy provides year-long professional development for teacher leaders and aspiring administrators with a focus on school leadership. Particular emphasis is given to the unique challenges of First Ring school districts.



The goal is to increase physical activity and improve nutritional practices.

Student Wellness Project

The goal of this project is to improve the academic performance and physical fitness of all students through increased physical activity and improved nutritional practices. In cooperation with Cleveland Clinic, the Wellness Committee coordinated the administration of Body Mass Index (BMI) screening for selected grade levels in First Ring districts. Individual student screening data were shared confidentially with parents while aggregate data will be used to support student wellness initiatives in the First Ring districts.

Math Achievement Project

The goal of this project is to increase student achievement in math. The committee, which is composed of First Ring math specialists, uses state and school district assessment data to drive instruction. This includes developing and implementing common interventions, developing assessments, and sharing best teaching practices to improve student success in math.

Math specialists use assessment data to drive instruction.

New Student Welcome Project

The Welcome Committee works to develop programs in all sixteen school districts to support new students with a specific focus on students who enroll throughout the school year. The committee shares best practices and provides students with support and materials to ease their transition to a new school district. Registrars have developed common forms for all First Ring districts to use when registering new students. Common procedures are also being developed to assist new students in other areas.