



# Governor's Institute for Educators

## Improving Academic Success Through Positive School Culture

### About this Institute

*Improving Academic Success Through Positive School Culture* will challenge school teams to examine the learning environment in their school to determine if the current climate supports and promotes academic achievement. Institute faculty and practitioners will provide teams with examples of research-based strategies that when implemented at the building level, will bring about environmental changes such as increasing student attendance, decreasing bullying and harassment and fostering positive relationships between students and staff. Participants will also be introduced to the PDE Wellness/Resiliency approach and learn how to build and strengthen protective factors in their school community. The overall result of these systemic changes is increased academic achievement for all students.

The course of instruction is based on the "Single School Culture" model. It is a holistic approach to increasing academic performance by developing a stronger sense of school community. The approach is not a "program" but a method of organizing and running a school. The model begins with shared norms, beliefs, values and goals and results in agreed upon processes and procedures. A single school culture uses specific and consistent strategies to improve academics, discipline and school climate.

Teams will be instructed in how they can use the information, models, and data to help them assess their own learning environments and develop action plans. Teams will complete a follow-up evaluation and make adjustments to the plan as needed.

### Who Should Attend

This five-day Institute provides professional development to teams of building-level administrators, instructional staff and pupil support personnel. A school-based team of three to five is preferred. A representative from the administration is required. If space is available, individual participants may be accepted.

### Dates and Location

- Registration is Sunday, July 27, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
- The Institute begins Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and a general session.
- The Institute ends Friday, August 1, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.
- The Institute will be held at Bloomsburg University, which is located in central Pennsylvania.

### Application Process

- Apply for a scholarship by completing an online application at: **[www.papde.ws](http://www.papde.ws)**.
- Scholarship applications will be accepted until all 100 scholarships have been awarded.
- The application selection will be based on composition of the team, type of school (public, nonpublic, charter, alternative education), geographic location (rural, suburban, urban) and size of school.
- Applicants should check the status of their scholarship at: **[www.papde.ws](http://www.papde.ws)**.
- After the scholarship application is accepted, the applicant will receive additional information from the Center for Safe Schools.

### Participant Benefits and Requirements

- A laptop computer is required for each team.
- Upon completion of all requirements, including implementation of an action plan in the participant's school, participants receive two graduate credits at no cost.
- Post-activities are required and graduate credits will not be awarded until Spring, 2009 when all post-Institute activities are reviewed and accepted.
- All participants are required to live on campus for the duration of the Institute.
- Meals and housing are provided.
- Sessions are ongoing throughout the day and evening.

### For More Information

If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Acri, Center for Safe Schools, [sacri@csc.csiu.org](mailto:sacri@csc.csiu.org) or phone: 717.763.1661 extension 134.

