

# SMARTER & STRONGER

Houston A+ Challenge

2018-2019

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

### CORE TEACHING SKILLS FOR REAL ACADEMIC GAINS

Challenge Institute workshops coach educators to drive gains through research-supported practices. Unlike sit-and-get PD's, Houston A+ learning sessions are opportunities for teachers to practice, collaborate, build relationships and walk away with skills and lesson ideas they can immediately put into practice. Houston A+ Challenge tailors learning sessions based on campus needs.

*"The professional development received from Houston A+ Challenge allowed our teachers to learn a lot of good mathematics and inspiring teaching models. Their structure allowed us to think of new ways to meet the needs of a new generation of students who we want to love math and be able think logically."*

*~Toneka Wise  
Teacher and Math  
Specialist, Aldine ISD*

## COACHING

### COACHING FOR PERFORMANCE

Like a personal trainer, A+ coaches pair personalized expert support with trust and inspiration. They help educators push themselves to be smarter and stronger – just as we want teachers to do for students. A+ coaches value teachers, specialists, and school leaders by putting clients' and schools' goals first. Coaches bring a toolkit of research-based solutions designed to increase rigor in classrooms, while offering them in the context of learning and planning together. This work is truly job-embedded and will strengthen educators' and leaders' ability to reflect and grow.

*Since we began using Houston A+ Challenge we have had double digit improvement in math two years in a row. The coach, Jen Mascheck was professional, an expert in her field, and collaborated seamlessly.*

*~ Dion Varnado  
Principal,  
Beaumont ISD*

## ACADEMIES

### WORKING GROUPS FOR WORKING LEADERS

Houston A+ Challenge has over 20 years' experience as a convener of education professionals. Academies provide like-minded professionals from a wide variety of districts and schools an opportunity to study, and learn and discuss ways they can improve their performance toward becoming more effective in their current positions. Participants can reflect on professional challenges, gain insight from fellow practitioners, take part in professional development tailored to their unique position and goals, or simply step back from the work to assess, strategize and regroup. Challenge Academies are driven by you and your work, and provide the flexible support you need.

*Houston A+ Challenge has been instrumental in the growth of our mathematics teachers. Over the last few years, they've helped us train and coach teachers across our district. James, Torrey and Jen are the Mathematics Dream team whose professionalism, content knowledge and heart for students has helped our teachers grow students as well as grow themselves professionally.*

*~Tiffany Reyes  
Development Specialist,  
Spring ISD*

HOUSTON **A+** CHALLENGE

For more information, contact Tom Monaghan at [tmonaghan@houstonaplus.org](mailto:tmonaghan@houstonaplus.org)

# WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT HOUSTON A+?

Houston A+ Challenge

2018-2019

Our packages of interconnected professional development options are customized to your needs. We offer weekly ongoing coaching across leadership teams and in-class, side by side coaching for teachers and specialists on campuses. Our leadership and coaching academies give administrators, specialists, and teachers the tools they need to maintain a focus on student learning. Houston A+ Challenge has a strong record of earning buy-in from teachers, specialists and leaders working alongside them throughout the school year and developing a deep respect for their work. When coached by Houston A+ Challenge, schools see results.

## By the Numbers

### Professional Learning

8 Districts  
49 Schools  
406 Teachers

### Coaching

13 Districts  
52 Schools  
135 Teachers

### Academies

10 Districts  
51 Schools  
57 Teacher Leaders

Our impact on students served in the greater Houston area to date is over 250,000 and growing every day. Houston A+ Challenge works to build a smarter and stronger city.

## ASK OUR CLIENTS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES CAMPUS CONTACTS

Partnership Focus	Name of Reference	Title/District	Email Address
Coaching: Specialists	Erin McDaniel	Alief ISD, Mathematics Specialist	Erin.mcdaniel@aliefisd.net
Coaching: Specialists	Nancy Peregrino	Aldine ISD, Curriculum Specialist	ncperegrino@aldineisd.org
Coaching: Teachers/Math	Michael Bross	Spring ISD, 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Teacher	mbross@springisd.org
Coaching: Teachers/Math	Stanley Umeh	Alief ISD, 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Teacher	Stanley.umeh@aliefisd.net
Assessment Packages: Math	Elizabeth Whitley	Beaumont ISD, Mathematics Curriculum Director	ewhitl1@bmtisd.com
Data Package	Maria Golucino	Alief ISD, Algebra I Teacher	maria.golucino@aliefisd.org
Coaching: Teachers/Ela	Jade Jackson	Houston ISD, ELA Teacher	jade.jackson@houstonisd.org
Coaching: Teachers/Ela	Brandice Armstrong	Aldine ISD, 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher	bsarmstrong@aldineisd.org
Coaching: Leadership	Justin Fuentes	HISD, Principal	jfuentes@houstonisd.org
Coaching: Leadership	Anna White	HISD/Principal	awhite@houstonisd.org
Coaching: Executive Leadership	Mable Holt	Aldine ISD/ Area Superintendent	mholt@aldineisd.org

## STUDENT IMPACT

Nine out of ten students in the Houston Area attend public Schools. The teachers and leaders we work with have a direct impact on motivating and ensuring students achieve at higher levels.



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# OUR WORK TOGETHER

Houston A+ Challenge

2018-2019

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

### ONE OR MULTIPLE DAYS

#### Professional Learning Communities

Explore the 3 Big Ideas that Drive the Work of High Functioning, Collaborative Teams

#### Practices to Increase Student Learning

Explore effective instructional practices that promote high levels of student learning: classroom environment, teaching of how, coaching into differentiation

#### Algebra I

Teachers collaborating to build shared craft knowledge and expand their tool kits

#### Preparation for the STAAR tests

Just in Time STAAR Reading  
Putting Thinking to the Mathematics Test  
A Crash Course in STAAR Writing

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## COACHING

### ACROSS THE YEAR

#### Content Focused

Side-by-side coaching w/teachers and specialists in Reading/Writing & Math classrooms  
Coaching cycles- plan, implement, observe & debrief

#### Key Instructional Practices

Effective instructional practices to increase student learning; establish look-fors  
Calibration amongst leadership team

#### Algebra I

Coaching shoulder to shoulder with teachers to build pedagogical content knowledge and increase student learning

#### Leadership

Mission, vision, values & goals, Effective communication, Change leadership and courage

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## ACADEMIES

### 8-10, 2 HOUR SESSIONS ACROSS THE YEAR

#### Central Office Staff

Mission, vision, values and goals  
Establishing collaboration  
Relationship building  
Effective communication

#### Specialist/Instructional Coach

Building vision and goals for department  
Ways to give effective feedback  
Process for planning, observing, giving feedback

#### Principal and Assistant Principal

A shift from *manager to learning leader*  
Effective communication  
Calibration with leadership team  
Professional relationships

#### New Teacher (and/or Classroom Coaching)

Classroom management strategies  
Building content knowledge  
TEKS breakdown, effective instructional practices

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## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

#### Comprehensive School Review

Self-assessment, guiding questions, classroom visits, teacher focus groups

#### Backward Design

Unpack the complexity of the standards to design learning targets for all classrooms

#### Formative Assessment Packages

Mathematics Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 & Algebra I  
Blueprints based on district scope and sequence  
5-7 Formative assessments  
High leverage student expectations (SEs)  
Answer keys, Student self-analysis