



Professional Development Calendar 2026-2027

At St HOPE Leadership Academy, we prioritize continuous professional development to support our mission of increasing the number of scholars performing at grade level. Our approach to professional development is carefully structured to align with the Danielson Rubric and to meet our school wide goals for the 2026-2027 academic year:

- 1. Teachers will establish an individualized professional goal based on feedback from their supervisor and aligned with the Danielson Framework for Teaching;**
- 2. Implementing and leveraging and the Science of Reading to strengthen scholars' reading fluency, proficiency, and overall literacy development; and**
- 3. Our goal is to equip grade-level teams with clear protocols and strategies to promote strong attendance, academic achievement, and meaningful connections with families.**

Professional Development Structure

Our professional development is an integral part of our school culture, occurring most Friday afternoons following an early student dismissal. This time is used for focused learning and collaboration among staff, contributing to a sustainable environment where academic rigor, reflective practices, and teacher leadership are at the forefront. The professional development schedule includes three primary components:

- 1. The Science of Reading:** All teachers play a critical role in developing our scholars' literacy skills. These sessions are designed to establish a shared vision for literacy instruction and foster a schoolwide commitment to literacy across all content areas.
- 2. Extended Grade Team Meetings:** These meetings, held every three weeks, provide a platform for teachers and counselors to collaboratively analyze grade-level student performance data. The focus is on identifying students who may require additional support, including possible referrals for Response to Intervention (RTI). This data-driven approach allows teams to proactively address student needs and implement timely interventions.
- 3. Department Meetings:** Monthly department meetings allow for in-depth discussions within the STEM and Humanities teams. This time is dedicated to reviewing student work and data, ensuring that each department has the opportunity to refine their instructional practices based on real-time insights. Additionally, these meetings support interdisciplinary collaboration, which is essential for the effective integration of co-teaching models. Teachers will also receive individualized one-on-one coaching focused on their self-selected professional goal. These sessions are specifically designed with our objectives of fostering a culture of learning and engagement, using data to drive instructional decisions, and implementing questioning and

discussion techniques to engage scholars in critical thinking. This approach ensures that our instructional strategies are continuously evolving and responsive to student needs as well as establishing a school-wide culture of collaboration.

Additional Planning and Collaboration Time

On alternate Fridays, additional planning time is allocated for teachers to work closely with the Director of Special Education. This ensures that all educators are up-to-date on the needs of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The eighth-grade team also benefits from extended class periods on these Fridays, providing valuable time for conducting science labs or social studies research projects, depending on the focus of the day.

Alignment with Best Practices and School Wide Goals

Our integrated model of professional development, observation, and evaluation is grounded in research based best practices. By embedding these elements into our weekly routines, we create a culture where all decisions are informed by data, collaboration is prioritized, and self-reflection is encouraged. This alignment with best practices ensures that we not only meet but exceed the standards to which we are held accountable as a professional learning community.

Our professional development plan is not only a response to the evolving needs of our post-pandemic educational landscape but also a proactive strategy to ensure that every student at St HOPE Leadership Academy is given the best possible opportunity to achieve academic success.

Rotation Schedule Overview

Our professional development focused on the Science of Reading will center on five key areas: building background knowledge, developing vocabulary, strengthening reading fluency, deepening comprehension, and enhancing writing skills.

- **Building Background Knowledge:** Building and activating background knowledge is essential to developing strong reading comprehension and supporting scholars in making meaningful connections with complex texts.
- **Developing Vocabulary:** Understanding word meanings—including both the breadth of vocabulary and the depth of word knowledge—helps develop stronger readers by expanding language comprehension and closing literacy gaps.
- **Strengthening Reading Fluency and Comprehension:** The ability to read text accurately, fluently, and at an appropriate pace, with proper expression and phrasing strengthens reading comprehension by enabling scholars to read with greater accuracy, automaticity, and understanding.
- **Enhancing Writing Skills:** Writing is an essential component of the Science of Reading because reading and writing are deeply interconnected skills. Writing reinforces phonics and spelling, strengthens language development, and deepens comprehension by requiring scholars to actively process and communicate their understanding of text.

This strategic rotation ensures that all teachers are well-prepared to meet the diverse needs of our student population, ultimately contributing to our goal of increasing the number of scholars on grade level. By adhering to this comprehensive plan, we ensure that our professional development efforts are not only aligned with our school's goals but also with the broader educational objectives that define successful and sustainable learning environments.

2026-2027 Professional Development Calendar

Friday, September 11 EGTM

Friday, September 18 Science of Reading

Friday, September 25 Department Meetings

Friday, October 9 Science of Reading

Friday, October 16 EGTM

Friday, October 23 Department Meetings

Friday, October 30 Department Meetings

Friday, November 6 EGTM

Friday, November 20 Science of Reading

Friday, December 4 Department Meetings

Friday, January 8 Department Meetings

Friday, January 15 Department Meetings

Friday, January 22 Science of Reading

Friday, February 5 EGTM

Friday, February 26 Department Meetings

Friday, March 5 Science of Reading

Friday, March 12 EGTM

Friday, March 19 Department Meetings

Friday, April 2 Science of Reading

Friday, April 9 EGTM

Friday, April 16 Department Meetings

Friday, May 14 Science of Reading

Friday, June 4 Department Meetings

Friday, June 11 Science of Reading

Thursday, June 17 Life Science Biology Grading

Tuesday, June 22 U.S. History Regents Grading