



High AIMS April Update

April 2025 Tom Burton & Dr. Mari Phillips

Spring Break Offers Leaders and Teachers a Much Needed Pause to Recharge



Spring Break usually falls in March or April for most school districts. It's a great chance for teachers and leaders to take a breather, recharge, and come back ready to finish the school year strong. It's also a good time to look back at how far you've come and get refocused on what matters most for your students and schools. **We hope everyone had a chance to relax and enjoy the time off!**

Message from Tom Burton, Executive Director

Dear High AIMS Leaders,

As we move deeper into this season of renewal and reflection, I'm reminded of the importance of intentional pauses—those powerful moments when we step back, reassess, and make strategic shifts. That's why I'm excited to share a book that deeply resonates with our mission of continuous improvement and courageous leadership: ***Reset*** by **Dan Heath**.



In *Reset*, Heath explores the transformative power of fresh starts. Whether you're overhauling a broken system or simply reimagining how to approach a persistent challenge, this book offers practical strategies rooted in behavioral science and real-world examples. Heath reminds us that resets don't require massive overhauls—they require intention, courage, and a willingness to view problems through a new lens.

One of my key takeaways: **moments of change are moments of opportunity**. As educational leaders, we are constantly navigating change—within our schools, teams, and communities. This book is a timely reminder that we can harness these moments to design better systems, empower others, and reset our path forward with clarity and purpose.

I encourage you to pick up a copy and reflect on how you can lead your own “reset” in the months ahead. Let's continue to inspire, challenge, and grow together.

With purpose and pride,

Tom Burton

Executive Director, High AIMS Community

Middle Level Student Leadership Conference - Lead with Impact

Leadership isn't about having a title—it's about using your voice, taking action, and inspiring others to do the same. Your students have the power to make a difference right now—leadership begins today. Their ideas can spark real change in their schools and encourage others to get involved.

That's why we invite you to select **six students in grades 6 and 7** to attend the upcoming **High AIMS Middle-Level Student Leadership Conference** on **May 12, 2025**.



Event Details:

Date: Monday, May 12, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Indian Hill Middle School

Participants: Students in grades 6 & 7

Capacity: Limited to 6 students per district

Lunch: Is provided to students during the event

The program will focus on leadership development through practical activities, real-world problem solving, and mentorship opportunities. Students will learn to identify their strengths, collaborate effectively, and take initiative in creating positive change. This engaging conference will focus on leadership development through hands-on activities, real-world problem solving, and mentorship. Students will discover their strengths, collaborate with peers, and learn how to lead with purpose and confidence.

Led by Tom Burton, the program includes the following student leadership experiences:

1. Guided reflection, team-building exercises, and impactful leadership discussions
2. Collaboration with students from other districts
3. Participation in dynamic, high-energy leadership challenges
4. Creation of a personalized action plan to implement in their school community

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to complete the registration form. **Please respond to the registration form by Friday, April 25, 2025, to let us know if your students will participate. This is vital to our planning.**

High Aims Webinar-CrisisAlert Demo and OH Alyssa's Law on Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Did you know that the single most critical factor of incident response on a school campus is **TIME**. The cloud based CENTEGIX Safety Platform™ that Princeton City Schools has in place today, initiates the fastest response to emergencies anywhere on your school campus! The Safety Platform combines industry-leading dynamic mapping and incident response solutions to identify, notify, and initiate a response to a crisis situation, within seconds.



Please join our webinar on Wednesday, June 4th 2025 to find out more about the CrisisAlert Safety Platform designed for High Aims School Districts. Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical component of school safety and security.

Invitation: High Aims Webinar-CrisisAlert Demo and OH Alyssa's Law on Wednesday, June 4, 2025 - 2pm - 3pm (EDT)

Meeting link: meet.google.com/daw-nmgu-rhf

Exclusive for High AIMS Members From Our Business Partner - Stages Learning

Stages Learning is offering **\$250 off their [Academic Readiness Intervention System \(ARIS\)](#)**—available for up to 3 kits per district. This is a great chance for members to explore ARIS, a proven early intervention solution designed to support neurodiverse learners and drive schoolwide gains.



To take advantage of the offer, members can reach out directly to Dr. Kari Stubbs at kari.stubbs@stageslearning.com.

Offer valid through May 31.

Your Voice, Our Focus

As we wrap up our final cohort meetings of the year, we want to acknowledge the valuable feedback you've shared. When asked how High AIMS can best support you professionally and collaboratively, cohort members identified the following priorities:

How High AIMS Can Support Cohort Members::

- Opportunities for cross-district collaboration on instructional strategies
- Access to practical tools and resources aligned with current initiatives
- More time for networking and idea-sharing within cohort meetings
- Support with implementing new curriculum or legislative changes
- Continued focus on leadership development and capacity building
- Guidance on using data effectively for school improvement and student growth
- A deeper understanding of federal and state legislative mandates and how they impact district policies, instructional planning, and compliance
- Insight into how colleges are preparing future educators—especially in classroom management, literacy, and instructional readiness—shared directly by deans and education faculty
- Inclusion of relevant professional journal articles, assigned in advance, followed by brief, focused discussions to promote shared learning and spark deeper dialogue
- Opportunities to visit other schools to observe innovative practices and gain firsthand insight into how fellow districts are approaching leadership, instruction, and student success
- Opportunities to present or share successes by having cohort members present strategies or successes from their districts to promote peer learning and elevate local innovation
- Collaborative Problem-Solving Rounds where leaders bring real challenges to the group and receive feedback, ideas, or solutions in a safe and supportive space





Facilitating Learning by Questioning - Posted on Reflections on Leadership and Learning by Amy Willingworth, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services in a southern CA school district

Teachers and school leaders play a vital role in creating a culture of inquiry. By asking thoughtful, open-ended questions, they spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and guide learners to think critically and explore ideas more meaningfully. Strategic questioning isn't just a teaching technique—it's a powerful way to facilitate lasting learning.

- How often do you, as a leader, ask questions?
- How much wait time do you provide to ensure that you do not answer your own questions?
- What type of questions do you find most powerful for reflection?
- How do you stop yourself from taking over a conversation by talking too much?
- How can the skill of questioning enhance your leadership?

Below is the link to the entire post..

<https://reflectionsonleadershipandlearning.com/2014/11/16/facilitating-learning-by-questioning/>

Upcoming Cohort Meetings!

- Curriculum Leaders/Planning Committee Cohort - April 24, 2025 - Princeton City Schools Administration Center - 8:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.



- Instructional Coaches Cohort Meeting - April 24, 2025 - Instructional Resource Center (IRC) - Scarlet Oaks Career Technical Center - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Please mark your calendars and join us as we continue to collaborate, learn, and lead together:

Live and Recorded Webinars offered by Ed Leaders Network (ELN) for On-Demand Professional Learning

Each month, the Ed Leaders Network (ELN) rolls out a few free webinars on timely topics that matter to educators. These one-hour sessions are packed with useful strategies, leadership tips, and tools you can take back and use right away. Every webinar is recorded and posted on the ELN YouTube channel so you can catch up anytime if you miss the live webinar. Check out the list below for what's coming up and browse past sessions. Click [HERE](#) to see the webinars coming up and the recorded webinars.



Thank you very much to our Partners



Office and Meeting Space

andor.



High AIMS Team

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