



QPA Summer Institute Frequently Asked Questions

Who attends the QPA Summer Institute?

K-12 educators from public, charter, and private schools typically attend QPA Summer Institute. Last year for the first time, teachers and administrators in adult education programs participated in the institute. Many educators come with a team of 2-3 other people from their school to learn together and then return to their respective school to share their learning with their colleagues.

Do administrators come to the QPA Summer Institute?

Yes, administrators participate in QPA Summer Institute. We offer multiple sessions during the institute that allow administrators to talk with each other about the opportunities and challenges of implementing performance assessments and setting up performance assessment systems in their schools and districts.

What are some outcomes of QPA Summer Institute?

During the institute, participants will create products that they can bring back to their school or district context. Teachers often create a performance assessment to use in their curriculum in the upcoming school year. Teacher leaders and administrators typically create work plans to engage faculty members in performance assessment activities.

Additionally, participants will leave the QPA Summer Institute well-versed in the attributes of a high-quality performance assessment and understand the processes that lead to designing performance assessments, and are able to facilitate professional conversations with colleagues. Participants can also expect to deepen their understanding of culturally-responsive practices through concrete examples and specialized tools. The goal is that participants return to their own context ready to serve as leaders in the performance assessment movement, whether from within the classroom or as an administrator.

What are the other benefits of attending QPA Summer Institute?

Past participants say that the institute offers the chance to collaborate with a diverse group of educators, address common challenges, and share different approaches.

I understand that choice sessions are offered at the Summer Institute. What are the topics that are offered?

The choice session topics are developed in response to the needs of the participants. We will solicit ideas from participants prior to the institute to ensure we are providing rich information, skills, strategies, and tools to support their efforts. In the past, we have offered sessions, including but not limited to, creating interdisciplinary performance assessments, developing performance assessments with the EL student in mind, increasing cognitive rigor in performance assessment, building strong rubrics that assess development of habits, and strengthening educators' facilitation skills to lead professional conversations with their colleagues.

Why does this year’s Summer Institute include a focus on educational equity and cultural-responsiveness?

We believe that performance assessments can be a powerful lever for educational equity, allowing for more engaging, rigorous, and richer learning for all students. Cultural-responsiveness is a key attribute of a Quality Performance Assessment because it ensures that no students are at a disadvantage in completing a task based on their culture, gender, socioeconomic status, life experience, language proficiency, learning style, or other aspects of their identity. Moreover, culturally-responsive performance assessments provide opportunities for students to articulate their own cultural values and build connections with other cultures, engaging them in meaningful learning that is relevant to their identities.

How much does it cost to attend the Summer Institute?

There are different price points based on the number of participants attending from a school and/or district. The individual rate (1-4 participants) is \$899/pp. The group rate (5-9 participants) is \$799/pp. For groups of 10 or more, please contact Allison Short (ashort@ccebos.org) for a special rate.

There is also an Early Bird Special Offer. Participants who register by May 22nd will receive 3 free Quality Performance Assessment Guide (a \$75 value) to share with colleagues.

Is housing included in the registration fee?

No. If you need overnight accommodations, Simmons College provides dormitory style housing for attendees with 1 or 2 bed options. Each room comes with bedding and toiletries. The rate for a single person room is \$70/day. The rate for two people in a room is \$58/day/person.

If I have other questions, who do I contact?

For any other questions, please contact Allison Short (ashort@ccebos.org).

