
Study Guide: The Handbook for SMART School Teams

Anne Cozemius and Jan O'Neill, 2002
ISBN # 1-879639-85-8
Publisher: Solution Tree
Approximate Cost: \$35.00 (see Amazon.com and other retailers)

The Handbook for SMART School Teams provides a ready reference for Better-Seeking Teams, including tips and tools for many of the improvement activities recommended in the GLISI Protocol. This Study Guide is provided for your use should you decide to focus on this book with a study circle or learning community, or for your individual development.

1. In SMART Schools, teams of people consciously and continuously contribute to each other's learning. How would you rate your school's or district's performance in the following areas? Provide examples that describe why you think so.

Building relationships within the community

Creating shared vision and goals

Building collaborative and team-based improvement skills

Using data to inform decisions and practice

In which of these points are you the strongest?

In which of these points are you the weakest?

2. Recall / share: What did you learn at Base Camp & Summit about what you can do to build on your strengths, become more proficient in your areas of opportunity, and use team-based improvement as a core strategy?

3. The authors suggest a four-part framework for becoming a SMART school (focus, reflection, collaboration, leadership capacity). Describe what you have learned about this *framework* from your reading and how you will utilize this *framework* to guide your journey on becoming a SMART School.

4. This book offers a plethora of tools for becoming a SMART School. From the many options, try at least one tool for each topic that applies to a specific challenge you are facing. Explain the tool, and reflect on what/how/when/where/why you have engaged your team in practicing and using it.

Tools for Group Process and Planning (Chapter 4)

Tools for Understanding Perceptions and Opinions (Chapter 5)

Tools for Understanding Problems and Improving Results (Chapter 6)

Tools for Measuring Student Performance (Chapter 7)

5. The authors suggest engaging all stakeholders in leading improvement efforts, using a variety of forums for discussing your plans and results, and employing various ways you might engage them in these powerful conversations. Reflect on these questions and which strategies you use to engage your stakeholders in these conversations:

Discussion Question	<u>Do We Currently Engage Internal <i>and External</i> Stakeholders in this topic?</u>	<u>What Strategies Do We Currently Use?</u>	<u>What Strategies <i>Could</i> We <i>Also</i> Use?</u>
Where do we want to be?			
Where are we now?			

Discussion Question	<u>Do We Currently Engage Internal and External Stakeholders in this topic?</u>	<u>What Strategies Do We Currently Use?</u>	<u>What Strategies Could We Also Use?</u>
How will we get there?			
What are we learning?			
Where should we focus next?			