

FRESHMAN FOCUS NETWORK



Grade 9 on-track is the best predictor of on-time high school graduation. Join the 2024-25 cohort of RISE's Freshman Focus Network to strengthen on-track achievement and help all students successfully transition to, through, and beyond high school.



COACHING

During coaching sessions throughout the year, a committed RISE coach will collaborate with each school's Grade 9 leadership team to set and track progress toward goals, and reflect on the implementation of strategies and student outcome data. RISE coaches also conduct observation visits to Grade 9 team meetings to provide feedback and support strengthened educator collaboration, a key lever for on-track achievement.

NETWORK EXPERIENCES

Grade 9 Leadership Summits - Core Grade 9 leadership team members from each school (e.g., administrators, counselors, and teacher leaders) will engage with one another through both in-person and virtual cross-district sessions to continue building knowledge around Grade 9 strategies and approaches, and to share and problem-solve challenges.

Virtual Learning Opportunities - Throughout the year, RISE will facilitate shorter virtual gatherings for all educators in network schools to unpack foundational conditions for success and learn about partner schools' innovative strategies for promoting Grade 9 on-track.

Grade 9 Newsletter and Resources - To promote ongoing learning among network members, RISE will send a monthly newsletter to educators from all participating schools that will highlight promising best practices and provide timely resources for teams to make use of in advancing freshman success.

SCHOOL VISIT

Each participating school will receive up to 4 seats at a visit to a RISE core network partner high school in Connecticut. Teams will observe Grade 9 structures and practices, connect with and learn from fellow educators working on building freshman success, and reflect on implementation and strategy design in their own contexts in light of observations.

To Register or Learn More:

Please contact Peter Lorinser at plorinser@ctrise.org

Eligible Schools: Schools in the northeast interested in pursuing new strategies to strengthen Grade 9.

Cost: \$17,000 per school

"[My coach] does a great job of seeing our structures, visions, and supports from an outside lens. He does a great job of pushing and framing our thinking."
- School Grade 9 Leader

"The philosophy behind the Freshman Focus is great. The literature is clear, the examples from established schools are concise and encouraging."
- School Administrator