



## Homework Options for the 2017 Teacher-Powered Schools National Conference

We are excited to enhance your experience at the 2017 Teacher Powered Schools National Conference. To receive your full salary point you must complete a total of 30 hours of after conference homework.

We understand that each of you are at different stages in your teaching and leadership skills and interests. With that in mind please choose from the menu below which is most appropriate and interesting to you. You may combine assignments from multiple stages.

Many of these assignments require you to work with other teachers at your school or within your local network. The focus on teacher-powered schools is on the *team of teachers* making decisions at a school site. If you have any questions or need guidance on any assignments please contact Amy Junge at [amy@educationevolving.org](mailto:amy@educationevolving.org).

All homework assignments are due by **Monday, May 1st, 2017**. Please plan accordingly.

**Introductory or Dreaming Stage-** You might be new to the idea of teacher-powered schools, currently work at a traditional school, or are just exploring this idea.

Options:

1. Write a reflection (minimum of 2 pages) on the conference. (2 hours)
  - a. Suggested questions:
    - i. What stood out to you as empowering you as a teacher/leader?
    - ii. What challenges does this model face?
    - iii. How can teacher-powered schools improve student learning? Why?
    - iv. Are you interested in working at a teacher-powered school?
2. Read *Trusting Teachers with School Success: What Happens When Teachers Call the Shots* (Farris-Berg, Dirkswager, Junge). 214 pages (8 hours)
3. For each of the 8 Practices in *Trusting Teachers with School Success* (chapters 4-11), write a one page reflection on how these practices improve student learning and the teaching profession. (8 hours).

4. If you attended with friends or a team from your school start a book club for reading *Trusting Teachers with School Success* and meet 6 times for an hour reading 2 chapters each time. (6 hours)
5. Join in one of the Teacher Powered Schools Initiative's monthly twitter chat and ask a minimum of 3 questions of our experts. Use the hashtag #teacherpowered to participate. TPSI Twitter chats are the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30pm PT. (1 hour per chat, maximum of 3 hours if you attend the chats in February, March, and April)
6. Go to our [Steps to Creating a Teacher Powered School](#) forming section and read through the resources. After reading and watching the resources create a 30,000 foot vision and answer the design questions under [vision](#). (5 hours)

**Forming and Storming Stages-** Teams in the forming and storming stages are not currently working at a teacher-powered school, but would like to develop a new teacher-powered school or convert their current school to teacher-powered.

Options: Any of the above activities plus,

1. Read and complete the Discussion Starters (available for free download at: <http://www.teacherpowered.org/starters>, or in a bound book on Amazon). There are 8 total discussion starters which can be done in any order with a team of teachers. The first one on Shared Purpose is recommended before the others, but each team can decide if this is appropriate for them. The questions in each section are meant to be a beginning point. Each team will decide what other questions are applicable to their school. Take notes on the answers to questions on the forms; indicate on the form how many hours the team discussion was.

Below are the hours for each discussion.

- a. Shared Purpose- a minimum of 2 meetings: 4-6 hours
- b. Securing Autonomy- 2-4 hours
- c. Collaborative Management- 2-4 hours
- d. Instructional Approaches- 2-4 hours
- e. Defining Success- 2-4 hours
- f. Selection and Hiring- 2-4 hours
- g. Cultural Integration- 2-4 hours
- h. Evaluation- 2-4 hours

**Norming, Performing, and Transforming Stages-** Teams in these three stages currently work at a school that is teacher-powered in at least one of the [15 areas of autonomy](#).

Options: Any of the above activities plus:

1. Working with your principal, choose one of the 8 Discussion Starters and after your discussion create, as a team, a plan of improvement for your school in this area. The plan should include details, a timeline, and the signatures of all teachers supporting this plan. Indicate on the plan the total number of hours spent working on it. (6-8 hours).

2. Working with your principal survey your teacher team on a 1-5 scale of the [15 areas of autonomy](#) (the survey can be anonymous). As a team discuss the results and prioritize areas you'd like to improve. Choose 1 or 2 areas and write a detailed plan of improvement. The plan should include details, a timeline, and the signatures of all teachers supporting this plan. Indicate on the plan the total number of hours spent working on it. (6-8 hours).
3. Visit another teacher-powered school and write a reflection including two areas you can collaborate together in, two areas you can learn something from them, and two areas they can learn something from your school. (3 hours).