**ECET2 Breakout Session Protocols**

**Breakout Sessions Goals and Descriptions**

**Goals:** To provide an interactive and open forum discussion of six major topics. The discussions for each session address challenges, opportunities, and successes from practicing or curious teachers. Participation is not mandatory, but is highly encouraged. In this positive open space teachers will embrace solutions by sharing stories and collaborating across grade levels and/or departments, all while providing a comprehensive view of the topic at hand.

Each session will be run by a facilitator that will share their exposure to the topic, keep the discussion going in a positive direction, and address any lingering questions. Valuable points or unanswered questions will be recorded on a large sticky note for further sessions and eventually become an informative handout for interested teachers afterwards.

We encourage each teacher to attend **one session of a topic they feel strongly about or practice, and one session of a topic they wish to know more about.** We are all experts and all can work together to elevate the entire district. Let your voice be heard!

**Breakout Sessions (must attend two)**

**Reaching Top Tier and Lower Tier Students:** Differentiation is a word used frequently in the classroom, but is truly being practiced? How can we personalize learning for those at both ends of the spectrum of ability level without segregating other students? Personalized learning and quality differentiation can help lead to an invigorating and highly engaged classroom, all while building a positive relationship between teacher and students.

**Technology and Social Media:** This session will dispel some of the myths of social media in the classroom. Instead, how does the incorporation of social media and technology help elevate the educational experience and level of learning? The session will feature a great share out of valuable apps, strategies, and an honest discussion how technology encourages collaboration, connectivity, and engagement.

**Growth vs. Fixed Mindset:** A growth mindset helps encourage expanding on intelligence and viewing challenging work as an opportunity to learn and grow. On the other hand, a fixed mindset puts a glass ceiling over effort and ability. How do we break through to these students and encourage this growth for all ability levels? This discussion will tackle the ideas of emphasizing challenge, not success, engagement, and risk taking.

**My Favorite Mistake:** Sometimes a wrong answer is just as important a right one. This approach to corrections addresses formative strategies and assessments, builds an optimistic culture in the classroom with positive reinforcement, and assesses what students know. Simple and effective, “my favorite mistake” involves reteaching, focus, and engagement.

**Flipped Classroom:** This session will look at the four major aspects of a “flipped” classroom: flexible environment, learning culture, intentional content, and the professional educator. The flipped classroom involves but is not limited to video recordings, online resources, and strategies that encourage and support student growth.

**Breaking Through Poverty/Community and Parent Outreach:** It takes a village to raise a child, but how do we effectively practice this old adage? No matter the classroom or content, branching out to the community and parents promotes a positive relationship and healthy district. What is being done now and what can we do to make things even better? Secondly, discussion will tackle what the individual can do to make coming into school a top priority and viable solution for those children lacking intrinsic motivation despite socioeconomic status. Every child has potential, but it might be up to a teacher to present that potential and shatter the illusion that students may be stuck or at a dead end.