

The National School Reform Faculty® (NSRF®) publishes the Connections newsletter six times per year. To suggest a topic or submit an article, email nsrf@nsrfharmony.org or call 812-334-8379.

From the Director

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“Open Training or On-Site Training?” That is the question (for some of our prospective clients who are considering a five-day NSRF New Coaches Training). For people considering how to make that call, let's outline the major benefits and drawbacks of each option.

Open Training

If you have six or fewer people who need to be trained and cost is your primary consideration, NSRF recommends the Open Training option. Open Trainings conducted in Bloomington, IN cost \$795 per person for the full five days of training. You will also need to cover each of your attendees expenses—travel costs, hotel, and dinners (we provide a continental breakfast and a hot lunch each day). All of these costs added together will probably be cheaper than having a facilitator come to you for that few trainees.

Our Open Trainings provide advantages not typically available in On-Site Trainings. Participants fly to Indiana from all over the United States and sometimes from overseas to attend our trainings. For example, at our October 2012 Open Training, we trained individuals from California, Oregon, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Georgia, North Carolina, and Indiana! These participants brought a wide range of experiences with them. They were teachers (early childhood through college), heads of schools, principals, vice principals, teacher coaches, and developers. They came from public schools, independent schools, educational PD providers, and colleges. These participants work with people from very different socioeconomic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. Attending an open training that includes in-depth professional conversations from this vast tapestry of experiences is truly enriching (and enlightening) in so many ways!

Also, just getting away from your normal place of work can be very freeing. The luxury of geographic distance from one's desk and the thousands of details we are asked to attend to each day means we can be free to give the work at hand, the training, our full attention. Being in a new and different setting can recharge your professional batteries, allowing more of an opportunity for new insights to take place!

On-Site Training

NSRF recommends the On-Site option when you are training seven people or more. If you are training a full group of 15 people, costs work out to be anywhere from \$760 to \$800 a person, depending where in the US you live. (Variation reflects air travel and lodging differences.) Although training seven people will cost much more per person than 15, the total cost for the training is still cheaper with this option, when travel, lodging and meal expenses are considered.

In this Issue ...

From A Facilitator's Perspective: Missed Days of Training p. 3

Who Is Quinn? p. 6

CFG Coaches and 5th & 6th Graders Use Chalk Talk p. 8

How I Learned To Stop Talking p. 10

Three Book Reviews: *The Colors of Nature*, *How Children Succeed*, and *Fire in the Ashes* p. 12

Adapting Protocols: Variations on Consultancy p. 17

One benefit of the On-Site option is that the training is specifically tailored to fit the needs of the school, district or organization that hired us. For example, if a school is interested in peer observation, the NSRF facilitator will make sure to include an afternoon of practice with observation protocols in the agenda. Because more people from the same place will be trained, it is easier to support one another in making CFGs (and NSRF protocols and activities) a part of the school's culture.

No matter what you decide, we have heard over and over again that the NSRF Five-Day New Coaches' Training is one of the most useful professional development that participants have experienced. If you are interested in attending an Open Training this academic year, [registration for our February Training is open right now](#). You may also claim a spot for the Open Training in July by calling 812-330-2702 or [emailing our office](#). And for answers to any other questions besides what I've outlined here, or to have us work up an estimate for a possible on-site training at your location, please call 812-330-2702 or email me at Michele@nsrfharmony.org.

Wishing you the happiest of holiday seasons,

Michele Mattoon
Director, NSRF



P.S. Please feel free to forward Connections to friends and colleagues, and suggest they [sign up for our Connections e-list!](#)

Want to clarify your understanding of NSRF's Critical Friends Groups? Want some support explaining CFGs to friends, colleagues, and administrators? Click these links to review our new promotional materials, or email us to request copies and links:

[A Self-Guided Tour to NSRF Critical Friends Groups \(pdf\)](#)

and

[Video Glimpse of NSRF New CFG Coaches Training](#)

National School Reform Faculty Critical Friends Group (CFG) Coaches