# Ignite Overview

**Enduring Understandings:**

- Teachers who tell their stories about entering the profession are able to better to connect to their daily purpose for teaching.

- Teachers who participate in communities that focus on problems of practice and envision solutions greatly enhance their school and district community.

- Teachers who explore technology and its implications for the classroom are able to better meet the learning needs of their students.

- Teachers who inspire each other will inspire students, parents, and community members to support them in their endeavors to be great teachers.

**Professional Development Standard from *Learning Forward*:**

- Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students requires skillful leaders who develop capacity, advocate, and create support systems for professional learning.

**End Goal:**

Teachers share a 10-12 minute TED-talk like presentation with colleagues for the purpose of inspiring other educators and providing practical optimism regarding an authentic problem of practice.

**Structure of the Six Modules for Ignite**

Module 1 (also the Kick Off) F2F- Brainstorm an Introduction.

Module 2 Online - Write an Introduction and post it in itslearning.  Teachers get feedback from the Design Team and from each other.

Module 3 (also the Momentum Meeting) F2F - Brainstorm a Problem of Practice and get feedback from colleagues!

Module 4 Online - Write a Problem of Practice and your Envisioned Solution.  Post both in itslearning and get feedback.

Module 5 Online – Post a written or virtual copy of your final Showcase.  Get feedback.

Module 6 (also The Summit) F2F- Present your Showcase at The Teacher Leader Summit!  Teachers are placed in groups of 12-15.  Audience sizes range from 50-100 educators.

**The Structure of the Showcase**

The Introduction includes: (2-3 minutes)

- A story about why the teacher chose teaching as a profession and why he/she remains. Teachers are to include vivid memories that capture the audience's attention and connect to them as teachers. (2-3 minutes)

A Problem of Practice includes: (3 minutes)

- A core belief, the reason why this problem is important.

- The problem itself - the existing state.  Categories for Problems of Practice include:

    - Teachers' roles in the classroom: student engagement, pedagogy, curriculum, assessment, technology, parent involvement.

    - Teachers' roles in their school community: School Improvement Team, Professional Development, Instructional Leadership Team, Department Chair, School Climate Committee, PBIS, Student Clubs, and informal roles.

    - Teachers' roles as members of the district: county-level committees and assignments, informal roles.

    - Teachers' roles as members of the profession: advocacy at the local, state, and national levels.

An Envisioned Solution includes: (3-4 minutes)

- Potential action steps which may include: books they will read, local colleagues with whom you will partner (maybe as a result of this Summit), new mindsets they will embrace, learning designs or methods they will use, professional organizations they will more closely investigate.

- Vision for the future - the hope related to your solution and how it may connect back to your Introduction and your Core Belief.  Your Showcase should feel like a unified whole.  Everything should "tie together" at the end.

**Ignite Development Process:**

- Senior Design Team – Cohort 1
- Design Team – Cohort 2
- Ambassadors – Cohorts 1 and 2
- Scorers

**Teacher Selection Process:**

- Principal or Supervisor Recommendation
- Application with Scoring Protocol, Rubric, and Samples
- Year 1 – 54 teachers; Year 2 -56 teaches; and Year 3 = 75 teachers
- Teachers represent all schools, content areas, and years of experience.

**Audience Members for Ignite Summit**

- School system leadership
- Teachers invited by Ignite Teachers (Team Members, SIT, Department Chairs)
- Cohorts 1 and 2, Ambassadors, National Board Certified Teachers

**Resources:**

- Leadership Virtues Survey from *Teacher Leadership*
- Problem/Action/Hopes Graphic Organizer
- *Everyday Teacher Leadership* – Five Modes of Inquiry – Chapters 2, 3, 5, and 6

**Blaze (Follow-Up Course for Ignite Cohorts 1 and 2)**

**Rationale:**

- Create a positive district-level environment committed to the highest levels of student learning.

- Empower teachers to positively influence the culture of their schools for the greatest impact on students' academic, social, and emotional growth.

- Develop the understanding that every educator has a responsibility to be a positive voice for the profession of teaching and the culture of our schools.

- Create an understanding that professional learning is owned by each educator.

- Build capacity for individuals to understand themselves better so that they can act in ways that open up a variety of leadership opportunities.

- Build capacity in face-to-face and online formats for teachers to engage in highly innovative professional learning opportunities intended to mirror the experiences that take place in highly innovative classrooms.