



The AERO Summer Institute brings together teams of teachers to collaborate in standards-based unit development and assessment design. ***The primary audience for this institute is teachers working in schools that have adopted and implemented the AERO Standards Framework and who have experience in the "Understanding by Design" approach to unit development.***

Outcomes:

Participants will leave the institute with units and the knowledge necessary to share standards-based units with colleagues at their schools. Participants will also identify appropriate resources to support the implementation of the units developed during the institute.

Institute participants will:

1. Review the AERO standards framework noting the alignment with other relevant frameworks (e.g., NGSS for science, ACTFL for world languages).
 - Investigate how conceptual understandings, knowledge and skills build across grade levels
 - Examine critical areas of instruction at each grade level and discuss strategies for ensuring student proficiencies in these areas
 - Analyze practices and explore how to build these into daily instruction.
2. Review the fundamental components of standards-based unit design
 - Review the "Understanding by Design" process for unit development, including enduring understandings and essential questions
 - Review critical elements of designing standards-based formative and summative assessments aligned with performance indicators
 - Discuss how to unify subject-specific content with subject-specific practices
3. Collaboratively design units for the elementary, middle school and high school levels
 - Utilize the AERO unit development template and the "Understanding by Design" process to develop, exemplar units for each level
 - Create instructional strategies congruent with the unit assessments
4. Identify and recommend resources that support and enhance the units that have been developed.
 - Review existing AERO resources
 - Identify and add new resources