



When it comes to the Open Circle Coaching Programs, we value:

- ⇒ **Coaching:** We have always included a built-in support component for teachers implementing the *Open Circle Curriculum* for the first time as a key part of our program. Recent research on best practices for social emotional learning programs is aligned with this value, inspiring us to strengthen our consulting programs.
- ⇒ **In-School Leadership:** We encourage in-school leadership by training school-based coaches. The impacts of this approach are that the teachers are supported, a caring adult community is built, Open Circle is implemented well, and social and emotional learning is sustained school-wide.
- ⇒ **Ongoing Professional Development:** Support for school-based Open Circle Coaches is essential to maintaining Open Circle's high quality and consistency of usage of the *Open Circle Curriculum* and approach in schools.

Why is Open Circle making changes to the ECT program?

At Open Circle, we're committed to continually reviewing and adjusting our programs to meet the changing needs of schools and educators and to provide the highest-quality professional development and support. Over the past year, we've been assessing the usage and effectiveness of this program. This assessment included collecting feedback from current Consulting Teachers, a review of the research on best practices for social and emotional learning programs, and a detailed analysis by Open Circle's staff. We used this information to adjust our programs to best meet your needs.

What are the changes that Open Circle is making to the Experienced Consulting Teacher Program?

- **No afternoon meetings:** In a survey, current ECTs indicated that our current structure of afternoon meetings are logistically difficult for many to attend and that they want more content than a 2-hour after school meeting can provide.
- **Certification:** Educators who have completed the Consulting Teacher Training and want to provide coaching to their peers will need to be certified through a one-day School-Based Open Circle Coach Institute. Coaches are invited to attend the institute every year, but certification will only be required every three years.
- **Title:** Once teachers are certified at the institute, they will be called School-Based Open Circle Coaches.

I'm currently an Experienced Consulting Teacher and I need to be certified. What do I do?

Current ECTs will register for and attend the School-Based Open Circle Coach Institute, which will first be offered in the summer and fall of 2010. Coach certification is valid for three years, and coaches are invited to attend the institute each year as their schedule and funding allows. In addition to certification, School-Based Open Circle Coaches will receive PDPs or CEUs for their attendance at the institute.

How much does the institute cost?

In the 2010-2011 training year, the cost of the one-day institute to receive the three-year certification is only \$225. Open Circle is offering a 25% discount off the list price for current ECTs, reducing the price even further to \$170. In addition, the fee for registrants in the Core Program who are supported by a School-Based Open Circle Coach is \$700 per person - \$225 off the list price (up to 3 people per coach). School-Based Open Circle Coaches will need to sign a coaching agreement each year for the school to receive the discount on Core Program registrations.

What will happen at the institute?

Participants will deepen their skills and knowledge as a coach and leader in their school by practicing coaching skills with colleagues, learning about the latest research in SEL, reflecting on their schools particular needs, and discussing successes and challenges as coaches and educators. Coaches are invited to attend the institute annually as we will present new content each year, but certification is only required every three years.



FAQs: Open Circle Coach Training

Why Train a certified School-Based Open Circle Coach?

- Save \$225 each year on every Core Program registration (some restrictions may apply)
- Develop broader leadership for Open Circle in your school
- Support implementation of the *Open Circle Curriculum* internally
- Increase collaboration among staff members, building a stronger adult community

How do I train a new school-based Open Circle Coach that has never been an Experienced Consulting Teacher?

Previously, an educator would train in the Consulting Teacher Training to become a Consulting Teacher. We've made a few changes to that program as well:

- **No afternoon meetings:** Instead of three full days of training and three afternoon meetings, participants in the School-Based Open Circle Coach Training will attend four full days of training.
- **Certification:** At the conclusion of the School-Based Open Circle Coach Training, participants will receive certification for three years. They will be invited to attend the School-Based Open Circle Coach Institute each year, but their certification will be valid for three years.
- **Title:** Once teachers are certified, they will be called School-Based Open Circle Coaches.

How much does the School-Based Open Circle Coach Training cost?

In the 2010-2011 training year, the cost of the four-day training to receive certification is \$675 per person. This year, Open Circle is offering a discount to schools that train a team of two coaches for \$1,000 per team. In addition, the fee for registrants in the Core Program who are supported by a School-Based Open Circle Coach is \$700 per person - \$225 off the list price (up to 3 people per coach).

Open Circle's mission is to work with school communities to help children become ethical people, contributing citizens and successful learners. By helping schools implement Open Circle, we foster the development of relationships that support safe, caring and respectful learning communities of children and adults.