

Anchorage School District Teacher Institute Seminar Series (TISS) FAQ

1. What are the Teacher Institute Seminar Series sessions?

The Teacher Institute Seminar Series (TISS) provides quality professional development for teachers on topics directly related to the ASD goals, guardrails and initiatives.

2. Who can attend the Teacher Institute Sessions?

All certificated educators are invited to attend Teacher Institute Seminar sessions.

3. What are the benefits of attending Teacher Institute sessions?

Dynamic and meaningful professional learning with an ASD focus will set the stage for exploring essential components and implementation of research-based strategies for improving students' achievement, social and emotional learning.

Teachers who fully participate in sessions equalling 15 hours may receive one Advanced Academy CEU (AdvA CEU) issued by the ASD through the Teaching and Learning Department.

4. What is a CEU?

CEU (continuing education unit) represents 15 hours of professional learning and is different from college credit. ASD determines the requirements for the AdvA CEUs that they issue. No college/university or college/university transcript is involved.

5. Why might a teacher be interested in an AdvA CEU?

A. *Salary advancement*

Teachers may earn up to two (2) TISS AdvA CEUs per school year. Within HR guidelines and agreements, AdvA CEUs will be accepted by the ASD for movement on the salary scale. AdvA CEU will count in the same way as a university credit for the purpose of salary advancement. When applying for salary advancement, the current procedure does not change. HR will count the AdvA CEU toward salary advancement when the teacher's MLP portfolio is evaluated and an AdvA CEU certificate is presented. The ASD will not charge a fee for issuance or use of AdvA CEUs. When applying, teachers must submit a copy of their AdvA CEU certificate.

B. *Recertification*

Within state guidelines, AdvA CEUs will be accepted by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for credit toward recertification. All CEUs must be related to the endorsement area(s) on the teaching certificate that is being renewed. A maximum of three (3) CEUs may be used to renew a 5-year certificate. It is the teachers' responsibility to pay any fees related to acceptance of CEUs by the state for recertification. When using an ASD issued AdvA CEU for the purpose of recertification, the AdvA CEU certificate must accompany the educator's recertification application when mailed to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in Juneau.

6. How will the issuance of AdvA CEU work?

The ASD will issue AdvA CEUs to Teacher Institute Seminar Series participants only and will record the AdvA CEU in Front Line Growth (MLP) under the Advanced Academy activity listing. No other CEUs will be issued to teachers by the Teaching and Learning Department for any reason other than as related to the Teacher Institute Seminar Series. The Teaching and Learning Department will issue an AdvA CEU certificate upon completion of the requirements

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and submission of the AdvA CEU Request Form to the Teaching and Learning Department by June 30, 2021.

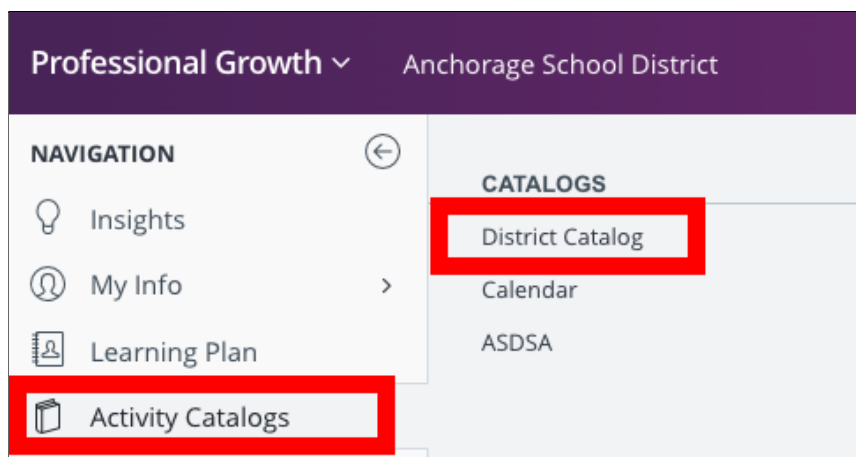
The *AdvA CEU Request Form* is on the [ASD Teacher Institute Seminar Series support central site](#). It is important that participants attend each session for that session to qualify as partial fulfillment of the AdvA CEU attendance requirement. For online and asynchronous TISS sessions attendance will be logged by the instructor. To count the training hours, participants must complete the entire training from beginning to end. No partial hours for a single training will be issued and none of the session hours accumulated during the school year will carry over to another school year.

7. What if a teacher wants to attend fewer than 15 hours?

Teachers are welcome to participate in any of the Teacher Institute Seminar Series sessions; however, teachers who participate in only a few sessions will not be eligible for the AdvA CEU (equivalent to 15 TISS hours). No partial AdvA CEUs will be issued and Teacher Institute Seminar Series participation hours do not carry over from one school year to another.

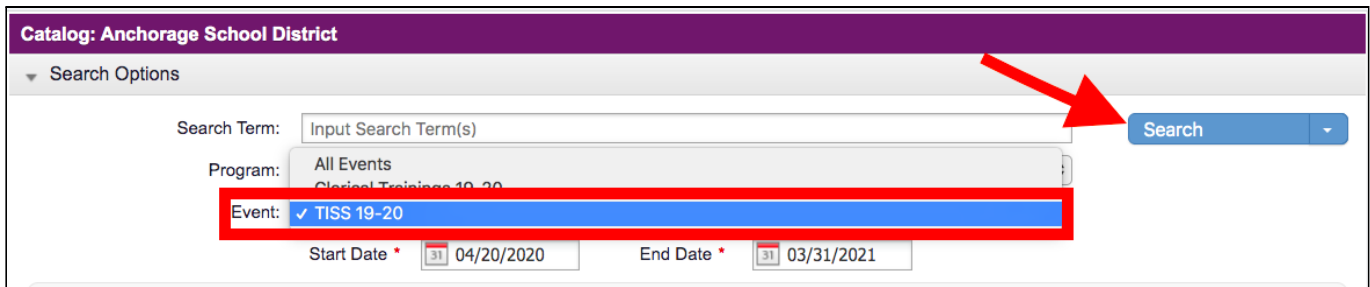
8. When and where will the Teacher Institute Seminar Series sessions be held?

Typically, Teacher Institute Seminar Series sessions are held during the school year at a variety of times and locations. They may also take place online via webinar and asynchronous methods. Go to MLP/Frontline Professional Growth to search for available TISS classes as shown below.



After logging into MLP/Frontline Professional Growth, click the “Activities Catalogs” along the left side of the page and then click “District Catalog.”

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The screenshot shows the 'Catalog: Anchorage School District' search interface. It includes a 'Search Options' section with a 'Search Term' input field, a 'Program' dropdown menu (set to 'All Events'), and an 'Event' dropdown menu (set to 'TISS 19-20'). Below these are 'Start Date' (04/20/2020) and 'End Date' (03/31/2021) fields. A blue 'Search' button is located to the right of the search options. A red box highlights the 'Event' dropdown menu, and a red arrow points to the 'Search' button.

When you get to the District Catalog select “TISS 2020-21” under “Event” and click “Search” to bring up the list of current TISS sessions.

9. Why is it important to provide this particular opportunity to teachers?

Teacher Institute Seminar Series will encourage good teaching practices, professional conversations, and reflective thought, while being a dynamic addition to ASD's professional development offerings. Teacher Institute Seminar Series will provide authentic experiences that will have far-reaching transformational effects for teachers, and ultimately for students. This academy is just one way that the infusion of quality professional development for teachers can encourage their continued growth and movement toward excellence in their professional practice.

10. I noticed that some of the sessions repeat. May I use both for my 15 hours?

No, you may only use a session once toward your CEU hours. If you feel that you need a review of the topic you may attend the session again, but it won't count towards your required 15 hours. For example, we may offer multiple sessions of iPad trainings for teachers that have the same title, since those are the same session repeated you may only use one of those sessions toward your required hours.