



# Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function Board of Education Meeting: 12/10/2024

Item Title: Partnering with BEST/AFT X Action  
BISD attend Center for School Improvement Information  
Leadership Institute 2025 Discussion

## BACKGROUND:

BEST/AFT is requesting the establish a partnership and participate in the Center of School Improvement (CSI) Leadership Institute 025. This event is designed for education leaders, union representatives, district and school administrators, education and community partners who are passionate about improving student engagement and creating thriving school communities.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Local Funds - Board Travel Expense

## RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion, consideration, and possible action to establish a partnership with BEST/AFT and participate in the Center for School Improvement (CSI) Leadership Institute 2025. Additionally, a Trustee will be appointed to attend the event and cover any incurred travel expenses. The event is scheduled to take place in New York City from January 23-25, 2025.

**Approved for Submission to Board of Education:**

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez  
**Submitted by: Superintendent**

Recommended by: Superintendent

Approved by: Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesus H. Chavez".

**Dr. Jesus H. Chavez**  
**Superintendent**

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.

November 11, 2024

Good Day Dr. Chavez,

BEST/AFT is requesting a meeting with you to discuss our partnering with the Brownsville I.S.D on attending the Center for School Improvement (CSI) Leadership Institute 2025 where the subject of the Training is Ignite Student Engagement. The event is being held in New York City from January 23-25.

This event is designed for education leaders, union representatives, district and school administrators, education and community partners who are passionate about improving student engagement and creating thriving school communities.

We would like to organize a team of six members of which three are BEST leaders, at least one district or school administrator, one school board member, the 6<sup>th</sup> person can either be another one of our leaders or another district/school administrator.

Sincerely,


Celia Saiz-Broussard

BEST/AFT President

(956) 639-2759

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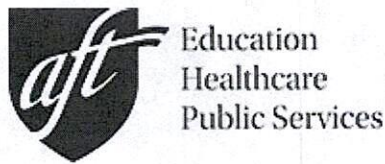
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**Subject:** Ignite Student Engagement at the CSI Leadership Institute 2025—  
Join Us Jan. 23-25 in New York City!

Despite evidence of post-pandemic academic progress, we still see too many indicators of student disengagement, disaffection, disconnectedness, anxiety, violent behaviors, and absenteeism, in addition to social media addiction and bullying. That is why we urge you to join us at the AFT's Center for School Improvement (CSI) Leadership Institute 2025, hosted in collaboration with the United Federation of Teachers Teacher Center, from Jan. 23-25, 2025, in New York City.

This year's theme, "Reigniting the Spark: Strategies for Enhancing Student Engagement," will focus on creating dynamic and engaging learning environments that inspire all students to succeed. **When students are motivated and engaged, they are more likely to excel academically and develop the social and emotional skills crucial for success in life beyond school.**

**The 2025 institute will explore strategies and practices aligned to our Real Solutions for Kids and Communities campaign that educators can use to create dynamic, engaging learning environments that inspire all students, regardless of background or ability.**

### **Why Attend CSI 2025?**

At the institute, you will:

- Share and discover best practices for enhancing student engagement across diverse learning environments.
- Identify barriers to student well-being, ensuring every student can connect meaningfully with their education.

- Explore the role of artificial intelligence, experiential learning, and social and emotional learning in fostering a more engaging and inclusive educational experience.
- Develop actionable plans with practical steps for implementation, supported by a network of educators committed to student engagement and success.

### **Who Should Attend?**

This event is designed for education leaders, union representatives, district and school administrators, educators and community partners who are passionate about improving student engagement and creating thriving school communities. We encourage you to organize a team of three to six members—including local union leaders, school and district administrators, and key community partners—to attend this transformative institute together.

### **What is the Registration Fee Per Person?**

\$200

### **Travel and Hotel Reservations**

**Participants are responsible for their own travel and hotel costs.** We have secured exceptional hotel rates for the CSI Leadership Institute participants!

The AFT has reserved a block of rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton New York Downtown at 8 Stone Street, New York, NY 10004, a short walk from UFT Headquarters.

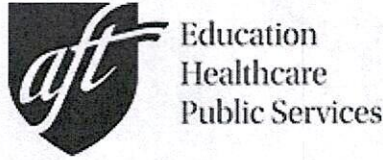
Room rates: \$123 per night, plus 14.75% tax and \$3.50/night occupancy tax.

**Register Soon!** Space is limited—secure your spot now! Registration deadline is **Wednesday, December 18**.

**To register your team and book your hotel rooms, click [here](#).** We look forward to seeing you in January in New York City.

Feel free to reach out to Giselle Lundy-Ponce, Director of CSI, at [glundypo@aft.org](mailto:glundypo@aft.org) if you have any questions.





**CSI Leadership Institute 2025:**

Reigniting the Spark: Strategies for Enhancing Student Engagement

Jan. 23-25, 2025 | UFT Headquarters, New York City  
#AFTCSI

**Agenda**

**Thursday, Jan. 23**

<b>8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>12:00—1:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.</b>	<b>CSI 2024 Welcome and Opening</b>
<b>1:35 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Plenary Session:</b> Student Engagement—Back to Basics Featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pollster and CNN Commentator Frank Luntz</li><li>• Surgeon General Vivek Murthy (invited)</li><li>• Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works (invited)</li></ul>
<b>3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:20 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.</b>	<b>Team Work Sessions 1</b> Shared Values & Communications

**Friday, Jan. 24**

<b>7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Team Work Sessions 2</b> Data-Informed Decision-Making

**11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**      **Pre-lunch Plenary Panel Session:**  
What Engages Me—Student Voices

- Student Panel

**12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**      **Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**      **Team Work Session 3**  
Developing and Enacting Systems Change for  
Student Engagement

**4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**      **Team Planning Time (Action Plan Work)**

**Saturday, Jan. 25**

**7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.**      **Breakfast**

**8:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**      **Concurrent Mini Sessions**

**MINI-SESSION 1: Student Engagement Through Leadership, SEL, and Being Culturally Responsive**

**MINI-SESSION 2: Student Engagement and Social Media Guidelines**

**MINI-SESSION 3: Student Engagement and Play: Hands-On with Lego Education**  
(Invited)

**MINI-SESSION 4: Student Engagement from the Start: SEL Programming in PK-2**

**MINI-SESSION 5: Student Engagement: Creating a Culture of Mandated Supports**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**      **Now What? Team Collaborative Planning Time**  
**(Teams Continue Working on Action Plan and/or**  
**Critical Friends Protocol)**

**11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**      **Quick Closing/Public Reflection Session**