Benefit 1: Team Capacity Building
- Schools will apply by naming 2 Champions of STEM (one administrator and one teacher leader)
- Champions will be charged with sharing learning and implementing change with a larger school-selected Innovation Team that can involve more staff and other stakeholders in the school community

2020-21: With the challenges of a pandemic, the time is even more critical to support leaders in their capacity to foster change and dynamic school cultures that can quickly pivot to new criteria and expectations. This year’s cohort has been designed to continue whether virtually or in person and to help leaders build capacity within their settings to not just survive the current crisis but thrive and be positioned for whatever happens next.

Benefit 2: Sharing best practices
- Six school visits opportunities with existing STEM Designated Schools and staff (virtual, 90 minutes, grade banded)
- Six "micro-lesson" opportunities to use attributes within the STEM Designation Rubric with your staff to guide continuous improvement (15-20 minute replicable materials designed for sharing)

Benefit 3: Scaffolded practice
- Each participating school will be assigned a Mentor Coach (a principal of a STEM Designated School) who will check in periodically to debrief, reflect, assist in planning, provide resources and contacts.
- An optional collaborative book study focusing on leading for change will be offered, worth 6 more TASL credit hours for those who choose to participate.

Benefit 4: Connecting ideas to innovation in your school
- There will be a virtual conference with 1/2 day for Champions and 1/2 day for Innovation Team members to join in sessions on topics ranging from grant writing to applying for designation to differentiating instruction and closing student achievement gaps. This will inform your design for an innovation to implement yourself this year.
- Each school will be coached through designing and implementing an innovation or improvement of their choosing in their own setting. We'll share the journey at closing session in May (in person, we hope!).

Tennessee Innovative Leaders Institute COVID Cohort