As students and parents make the transition from one school to another, whether from elementary to middle or middle to high school, there are challenges and opportunities for schools to create the best possible entry into the new school. Sometimes, the change is from a small school to a larger school, while at other times it is simply a change to a different level. Communication between the sending and receiving schools is a critical component of the transition process; students and parents must receive information in a timely manner. Once the students arrive, the next phase of transition begins with supportive structures to ensure student success. This workshop will look at a variety of transition strategies that will optimize the transition of students to their new schools and support them in their first year in the new school.

Participants will:

- Understand the many facets of transition for both students and parents and the importance of effective communication with both audiences.
- Learn about tested strategies that provide for smooth transitions to new schools.
- Explore the importance of consistent communication across schools about the purpose and nature of transition planning.
- Examine a variety of supportive structures that will maximize student success including advisories, team structures, academic support options, and after-school programming.
- Develop or revise transition plans for their schools based on the new learning.

Ted Hall has been on the cutting edge of school transformation over the past 20 years. An accomplished principal of several high schools in New England, Ted has also worked for two of the most prominent school reform organizations in the country—the Coalition for Essential Schools/Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University and the National School Reform Faculty. For two years he worked with Ted Sizer at Brown University where he designed and implemented professional development programs, particularly for math and science teachers. While serving on the Institute’s Governance Council, he also taught “The Craft of Teaching.”