

# BOY SMARTS

## ACTION STUDY GROUP



## ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE STUDY GROUP



“HOW WILL WE TURN WHAT WE KNOW INTO ACTION?”

Read and study  
**Boy Smarts**  
as a group!

Purchase mid-July 2009

Email [info@mentoringboys.com](mailto:info@mentoringboys.com)  
if you would like to receive  
details when available.

- As you consider the 100 foundational guidelines offered in *Boy Smarts*, over 600 thoughtful questions and activities provided by *Boy Smarts Action Study Guide* will inspire your group to think critically and imaginatively about ways to help struggling students, especially boys.

- You will increase your understanding and comfort level as you try new ideas in your classroom or at home. Your study group will pool knowledge and generate creative plans of action that are best suited for your community.

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- Understanding the varying needs of boys is crucial for their school success. Boys do not need excuses for bad behaviour, nor do they need rescue from their masculinity. They need respect, discipline, guidance, and understanding.

- How can we help boys to be more themselves without pitting their needs against the needs of girls, without ignoring those who are economically or intellectually disadvantaged or who are marginalized in other ways?

- How do we close the gap between a boy's ability and achievement?

- How can we side-step paralysis by analysis in our attempt to make sense of the gender gap?

- How can we avoid over-generalizing about causal links between gender and achievement?

- What can teachers and parents do to help boys relax the boy-code and loosen the gender straitjacket so that boys are able to feel okay as they achieve their potential?

- How can we listen beyond a boy's bravado and veneer of indifference?

- What assumptions might we make about boys' withdrawals into silence at times?

- How can schools make learning more active and kinesthetic – for both boys and girls?

- What are consequences for misbehaviour that are restorative and not punitive?



- • • The *Boy Smarts Action Study Guide* provides perceptive and thoughtful points of inquiry for learning communities to respond to boys of all ages and from all walks of life. It lays the foundation for constructive and positive futures.

- • • Whether you're already an expert staff developer or you're taking on this role for the first time, this guide will help you plan, implement, and evaluate your responsiveness to those boys who are struggling with school.

- • • Because the needs of your school or district are unique, this action guide is the ideal tool for developing a customized plan that will work in your community.

- • • The collaborative reflection activities and questions are designed to uncover different perspectives among group members while also developing a trusting atmosphere.

- • • The study questions do not cover all aspects of the book, but invite you to reflect more deeply on questions that are particularly open to debate. These questions will guide your reading of *Boy Smarts*, and structure discussion of key concepts during your weekly collaborations. While your group is welcome to discuss all of the 600+ questions and activities contained in this guide, you will likely pick and choose in a manner that best suits the collective needs of your group.

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