

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORKS

Based on adult-learning research and our twenty years of experience working in schools and districts, Partners has seen that collaborative learning networks for teachers and leaders can be an efficient and powerful lever for transforming the quality of leadership, teaching and achievement.

“Our work with Partners in School Innovation has been instrumental in truly accelerating the quality of teaching and learning at Everett Middle School and ultimately, the academic results and high school readiness of our students. They have truly taken the time to get to know where we’ve been and where we want to go to help us strategically align our resources with our goals and stay the course. Partners staff are 100% student and school advocates all the way. We are grateful for this continued partnership.”

JENNIFER KUHR,
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, EVERETT MIDDLE SCHOOL, SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

We convene groups of school and district leaders, instructional coaches, and teachers to learn best practices for effective school improvement, while also sharing their own experience and knowledge in leading toward results. Our networks accelerate the ability of participants to make focused and strategic changes in their districts, schools and classrooms.

In designing and facilitating professional learning networks across the country, we have seen that they have the potential to:

- Foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement across schools, classrooms, or the broader district through the exchange of best practices and support around specific challenges
- Support authentic inquiry and collaboration around an issue or topic of relevance and/or concern
- Provide time and space for deep reflection and professional learning in order to develop the knowledge and

refine the skills necessary to lead school transformation

- Encourage shared accountability for goals and next steps
- Surface trends and common needs across schools and/or classrooms to be addressed later in the network setting or via a broader systemic change

TEACHERS

We bring together teachers across similar content areas or grade levels to support intentional planning and reflection in order to improve instruction. In our PLCs, teachers use Results-Oriented Cycles of Inquiry (ROCI) to improve their instruction and accelerate learning for their students. Our sessions are designed to guide teachers through data-analysis and planning processes that they can replicate back at their sites with other teachers and in their daily work. Common topics include:

- Building high-performing teams
- Setting SMART and equitable goals

- Backward planning Common Core aligned, culturally responsive units and lessons
- Creating and using Common Core aligned assessments
- Data analysis to identify successful teaching practices and student needs
- Creating intervention plans for students

LEADERS

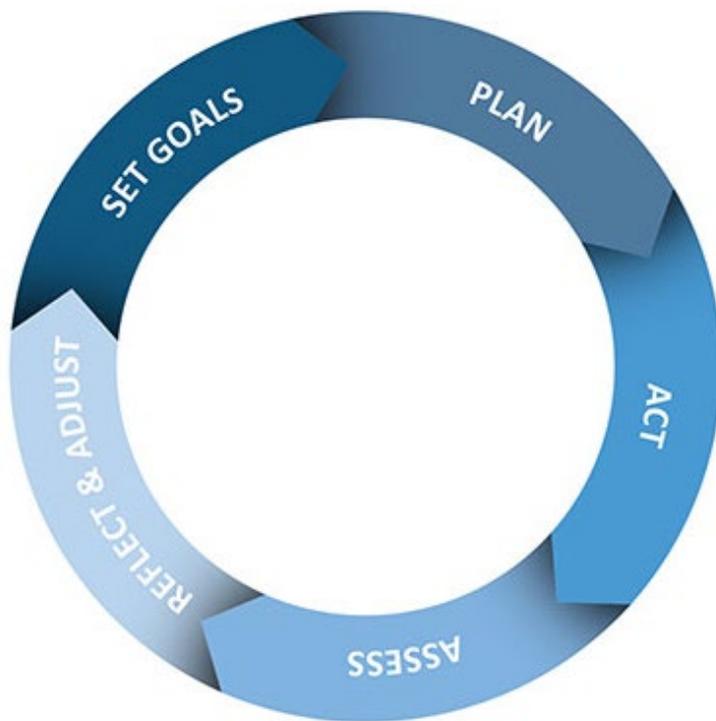
Our Leadership PLCs create opportunities for school leaders (principals, assistant principals, coaches and teacher leaders) to learn about and implement best practices for School Transformation. We teach leaders to utilize the Results-Oriented Cycle of Inquiry as a way of working to realize their vision for students, while customizing the design and content of each Leadership PLC to meet the needs of our partners. Additionally, we balance input of new content with time to apply learning through planning, sharing best practices and supporting each other through challenges. While the scope and sequence of learning for each Leadership PLC varies, common topics include:

- Building high performing leadership teams
- Defining a collective vision for students
- Setting SMART and equitable goals
- Prioritizing strategies for accomplishing goals
- Defining Professional Learning Plans
- Analyzing data, reflecting on successes and challenges and making adjustments
- Using the Results-Oriented Cycle of Inquiry
- Facilitation and coaching skills
- Building cultural proficiency

COACHES

Many schools and districts have created positions to support school leaders and teachers in implementing their reforms. We offer networks that are custom designed to support individuals in coaching roles to deepen their skill in coaching, facilitating and influencing others to implement practices that will support student achievement. Common topics include:

- The Partners coaching framework
- Change management
- Instructional coaching strategy and cycles
- Data-analysis
- Facilitation and team building
- Building cultural proficiency



HOW WE WORK

We deeply believe that research and even our robust organizational experience cannot be applied in a one-size fits all manner. We know that each district and school context is different and we work hard to adapt our content to leverage your strengths and address your most pressing challenges. To that end, we:

- Work in close collaboration with district leaders to determine specific learning goals for each network
- Craft a unique scope and sequence for learning that will ensure participants can attain those goals
- Design thoughtful agendas that enable participants to take action
- Balances a focus on learning new skills and content with time to apply that learning through planning, sharing best practices and supporting each other through challenges
- Embed data-analysis and inquiry cycles into our session designs
- Provide skilled facilitators to guide both whole group and small group learning
- Use a gradual release model to build the capacity of designated district/school staff to design and facilitate network sessions