

## The Learning Accelerator

Designing a New Normal with Pandemic Practices

March 2022

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Designing a New Normal with Pandemic Practices

March 9, 2022

# Slide Deck: bit.ly/sxswedu2022tla



## **Session Objectives**

- Learn how innovative school systems developed supports to cultivate innovation in schools and classrooms
- Explore innovative practices and strategies implemented during the pandemic
- Plan how they can support innovation in their schools by seeing resources from other schools and applying it to their local context



### **Agenda**

Introductions

Innovations Implemented in Response to COVID-19

Overview of Structures that Support Innovations in Chicago and Dallas

**Entry Points to Create Systems** 

**Strategies to Drive Change** 

Q&A

Closing



#### **About the Presenters**



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## **Innovation Directors Network**



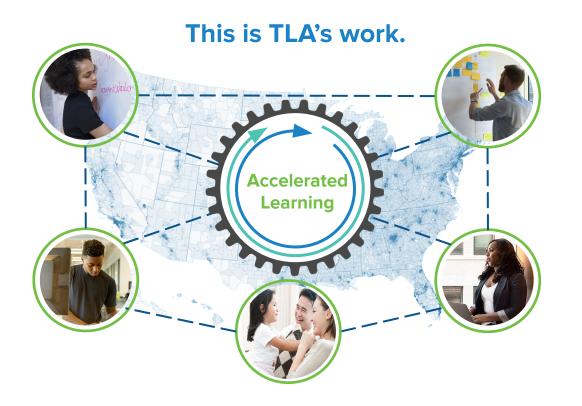
## **Currently:**

- 16 leaders,8 alumni
- 768,000+ students
- 16 Districts& 2 CMOs

The Learning Accelerator envisions a world in which each student receives the effective, equitable, and engaging education they need to reach their full and unique potential.











## TLA works alongside educators to produce...



### **Equitable Access to Knowledge**

We want to ensure practitioners and students, regardless of local resources or context, have access to high-quality practices and system strategies.



### **Accelerated Adoption**

We seek to speed up evidence building as well as mainstream uptake and implementation of great ideas and approaches.



### **Learning at and for Scale**

We want to help build learning systems with continuous improvement and innovation adaptation (not just "replication") across field.



# Schools implemented innovations to overcome challenges the pandemic created and exacerbated

"They just found ways to do the impossible thingsthe students, the staff, the families, everybody just working together, and it was really cool."

**Dr. Tina Owen-Moore**Superintendent, School District of Cudahy



GUIDES

## Hop, Skip, Leapfrog

Exploring the concrete ways schools and systems pursued student-centered innovation during COVID-19



Hop, Skip, Leapfrog



Four-Month Research Project
23 School Systems
10 Experts





## Student-Led Family Conferences

STRATEGY

To support students' and family members' understanding...

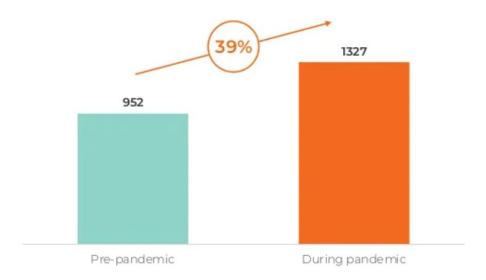






### In a crunch, schools used more online resources than ever before.

Teachers and students accessed MORE online educational tools and websites each month



Source: LearnPlatform Note: Epicl and Desmos are in Reach Capital's portfolio.



### AMONG TOP 40 MOST POPULAR ONLINE TOOLS

**G** Suite



Clever



Flipgrid

Quizlet

Kahoot!



(ii) canvas





desmos





## How can school systems cultivate these innovations?











512 Schools (123 schools have engaged in PL work)

- 421 Elementary Schools (PreK-8)
- 91 High Schools
- 330,000 Students

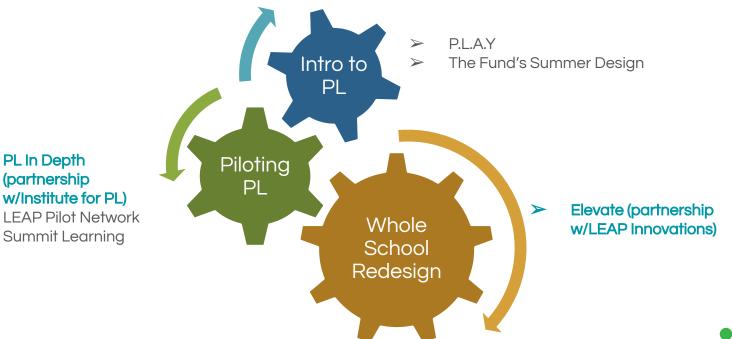
	Chicago	CPS
White	32%	11%
Black	32%	36%
Latinx	28%	47%
Asian	5%	4%

Economically Disadvantaged Students: 75.5%



# Pre-Pandemic - School Pathways

Department of PL as a "connector"





PL In Depth

(partnership

w/Institute for PL)

Summit Learning

## Pre-Pandemic - Frameworks

Multiple Frameworks based on program partners













## Post-Pandemic - Shift to a Common Language

Creating a Common Language and Success Measures



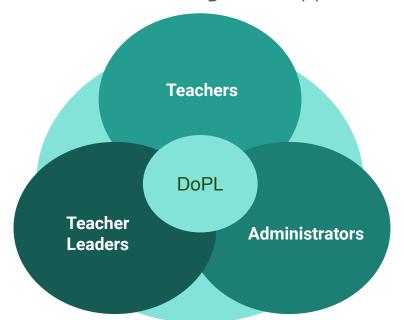
CPS PL Framework
CPS PL Framework Continuum





# Post-Pandemic - Differentiated Pathways

Developed multiple pathways for teachers and administrators, as individuals (or as part of school teams) to choose their "right fit" supports.





# Post-Pandemic Teacher Pathways

### Introduction to Personalized Learning

Topic: Creating Student Experiences that Promote Student Agency and Ownership

Time Commitment: Monthly PD sessions with coaching support

Audience: Beginning Teachers

Resources/Supports: \$5000 classroom investment per teacher

### **Deepening Practice Series:**

Topic: Differentiated Pathways to Accelerate Student Learning

Time Commitment: Monthly PD sessions with coaching support

Audience: Experienced PL Teachers

Resources/Supports: 1:1 Coaching

### **Deepening Practice Series:**

Topic: Leveraging Different Types of Assessment for Mastery Based Progression

Time Commitment: Monthly PD sessions with coaching Support

Audience: Experienced PL Teachers

Resources/Supports: 1:1 Coaching



# Post-Pandemic Teacher Leader & Administrator Pathways

#### PL Ambassadors:

Topic: Mentoring "new to PL" teachers

Time Commitment: Approximately 7 hours per month

Audience: Experienced PL Teachers with interest in leadership

Resources/Supports: \$3500 stipend, PL conference, 1:1 leadership coaching

#### **Administrators**

Topic: Implementation Support Community

Time Commitment: Quarterly PLC (½ Day) with coaching support

Audience: Legacy PL School Leaders (Elevate, Breakthrough)

Resources and Supports: National Site Visits to PL Schools, Attendance at national conferences, consultative and coaching support



# Post Pandemic Pathways for all Innovators

### **Innovation Engine**

The innovation engine provides small grants to schools and individual teachers who demonstrate forward-thinking to fund their innovative ideas.

Time Commitment: 2-3 planning/consultation meetings and presentation of final project for all awardees at the PL Symposium

Audience: Open to all schools/teachers\*

Resources/Supports: Up to \$25,000 (school applicants); Up to \$5,000 (teacher applicants)

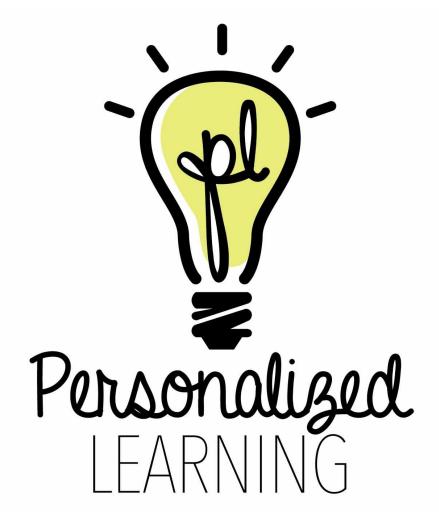


## Why Innovation is Important in CPS

- Diverse communities 77 unique neighborhoods in Chicago
- School leader autonomy
- Shifting demographics
- Equity!









## Dallas Independent School District



- 145,000 students
- 230 schools
- 22,222 professionals
- Sits in the heart of a urban, diverse and dynamic region
- 384 square miles across North Texas



- ▶ **18** wall-to -wall personalized learning schools
- 15+ schools invested in blended learning



## **Establishing an Ecosystem for Innovation**







## Personalized Learning Common Language

## Coaching and Development Tools to Support Implementation at the Classroom and Campus Level



	Not PL Ready	PL Ready	Consistent Practice	Personalized
	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Teacher Mindset	Teachers and staff meet expectations but have not begun to engage in any self-reflection.	Teachers and staff have begun a process of self-reflection to identify strengths and areas for growth dis- positionally. They may still feel more comfortable with not disrupting the status quo or not taking risks and/ or they are more top-down than collaborative.	Feachers and staff are reflective, collaborative, and tile-long learners. They are aware of their strengths and areas for growth dispositionally and take time to focus on those things in their practice.	Teachers and staff are reflective. collaborative, and life-long learners, and are always pushing the status quo. They view challenges as opportunities and are confortable with ambiguity and risk-taking. They are aware of their strengths and areas for growth dispositionally and are able to leverage their strengths and other team members' strengths.
Student		Sometimes students are involved in campus decisions.	Students occasionally are involved in campus-wide decisions.	Student input is routinely used in decision making, including student voice in all school structures and process is the norm.
Voice	No student voice:			
Failure	Failure is viewed as a negative and leads to corrective/punitive action.	Failure is acknowledged, but no productive support is provided.	Failure is seen as a growth opportunity, feedback/support are provided, and a plan is co-created.	When you fail, it is celebrated, and seen as the next step in iteration: reflection on learnings is integrated into next steps.
Contribution to Culture	Across stakeholders there is a shared boller that it is the principal's job to improve current school conditions. Culture is driven by leadership decisions.	Teachers take ownership in improving current conditions. Stakeholders have some role in making decisions that impact school culture (a., what initiatives to pursue, what routines and rituals are followed).	Administration, teachers, and students share responsibility in improving current conditions. Stakeholders are deeply integrated in all docisions made that impact the school cutture and have an active role, voice, and presence in the school community.	Culture of the school is such that all are empowered contributors with an important voice and contributor to the community, such that decision making is a shared process.
Communica- tion	Conversations about innovation are exciting and optimistic but many times never put into action.	Innovation efforts have a clear, shared sense of purpose across the campus.	Strategies are developed, documented, and are being implemented across the campus. These strategies are explicitly linked with measures of effectiveness and impact and are used to drive strategic planning decisions.	Innovation is explicitly encouraged and celebrated in studies across the campus. All stakeholders feet empowered to design and try new approaches. Attempts and "failures" are routinely shared and openly discussed. They are not only tolerated but are recognized as a vital part of the innovation process and are used to drive progress.

10 Culture of Innovation





**PL Coaching & Development** Ruhric

Classroom level rubric

## PL Readiness Continuum

Systems level rubric

### **Coaching Progressions**

Step-by-step observation & implementation

#### The PI Toolhox

Online hub for all things BL & PL



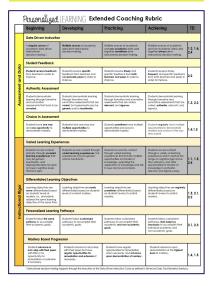
www.thepltoolbox.com



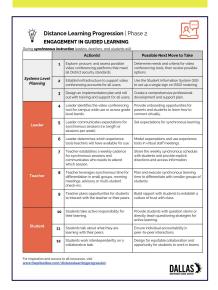


## Recreating our Common Language

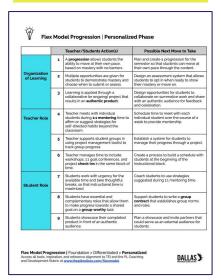
## **BEFORE**



## **DURING**



## **AFTER**









## Finding Another Way to Onboard

**BEFORE** 



July 2019

**DURING** 



July 2020

AFTER



July 2021







## **Strengthening Connections Across PL Schools**

**BEFORE** 

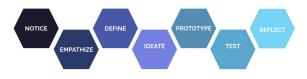


**DURING** 



**AFTER** 

**Design Excursions** 









## **Inspiration + Strategies to Lean on**



## **START HERE**

- 1. Establish a common language.
  - 2. Find your people.
  - 3. Gain empathy from who you're serving.



## THEORIES + FRAMEWORKS WE LEAN ON

- **Appreciative Inquiry**







What advice would you recommend to districts who are beginning to explore new learning models?



# How has the pandemic changed your programming?



How are you able to prioritize personalized learning given all of the (pandemic-created) constraints?



# **Question & Answer**

How do you know your systems to support innovation are working?



# **Question & Answer**

How do you make sure innovation is not just a fad or trend?



# **Question & Answer**

# What are you doing to ensure innovation work is sustainable?



# **Entry Points**



Highlight **Bright Spots** 



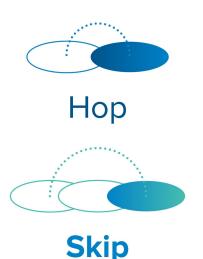
Convene Innovative **Practitioners** 



**Provide Microgrants** 



## Overview of Hop, Skip, Leapfrog



"Hops" represent small tweaks or improvements, usually through implementation of single tools or specific instructional strategies.

"Skips" required educators to adopt new systems of practice, changing student experience at a greater scale (either in terms of sustained, consistent change within an area or across a greater number of students and classrooms).



"Leaps" were systemic, longer-term changes to the "grammar" of school, where traditional organizational structures for learning such as use of time, space, grade-levels, and progress assessment were fundamentally altered.

# Overview of Hop, Skip, Leapfrog

#### **Growth Oriented**



More than ever, learning needed to focus on individual and group-level actual mastery of essential standards and skills. Educators implemented strategies that supported teacher and learner understanding of mastery and how to identify, set, and measure progress towards goals. Further, teachers identified ways to sustain practice, giving students feedback and offering multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery before moving on.

## Hops



### Wait Questions

STRATEGY

One way to ensure all students both engage and offer...



#### Schoolwide Weekly 1:1 Student Conferences

STRATEGY

Weekly, one-to-one conferences supported by all staff



## Student-Led Family Conferences

STRATEGY

To support students' and family members' understanding...

## **Skips**



#### Restructuring Specials Schedules

STRATEGY

In response to the pandemic, Cedar Rapids Community...



### Deepening Arts Enrichment Through Three-Week Focus Scheduling

STRATEGY

Modifying arts enrichment schedules to minimize risk...



## Mastery-Based Math Learning Through "Cafés"

STRATEGY

Liberty Public Schools math teachers piloted a...

#### Leaps



### Multi-Grade Level Classrooms

STRATEGY

As a result of the pandemic and changing class sizes...



## Third and Fourth Grade Mastery-Based Grading

STRATEGY

At Mt. Vernon Elementary School, mastery-based grading...



## Reimagining High School Grading

STRATEGY

In response to high failure rates during remote...

# Overview of Hop, Skip, Leapfrog

## Creating New, Wraparound Supports for Students and Families

Leaders tapped into unlikely partners and staffing configurations to maximize support for student and family engagement, wellbeing, and achievement.





STRATEGY

Metro Nashville Public Schools created a new...



Weekend and Vacation Meals Distribution

STRATEGY

To support students and families during school...



Building Multilingual Systems of Support and Engagement for Parents/Guardians

STRATEGY

With the shift to remote learning, Meriden Public...



# Sample Strategies: Hops, Skips, & Leaps in Practice



Student-Led Family Conferences

STRATEGY

To support students' and family members' understanding...



Cross-School, Virtual Interventions

STRATEGY

The School District of Cudahy reconfigured...





# **Sample Strategies: Shifting Conditions**



Leveraging Local Media to Communicate with Multilingual Families

STRATEGY

Ector County Independent School District held a weekly...



Virtual Coaching for Teachers

STRATEGY

To support teacher growth, the Ector County...

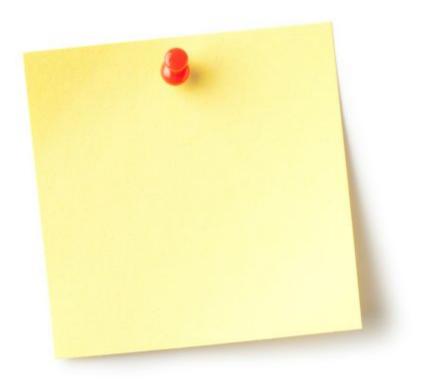


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## **Post It Promise**



What is one thing you will take from your session?

Who will you share your learning with?

What action will you take?



# **Additional FREE Supports**





# Our team works with educators to produce high-quality, free, and actionable tools that help translate ideas to concrete practice.



# STATION ROTATION How do I set up a station rotation model in my classroom?

Interested in implementing stations and not sure where to start? This guide will give you tangible resources and research, with key insights and strategies around culture, space, and routines.



Currently implementing stations and thinking "now what?" This guide will give you resources around how adding more flexibility of movement, timing, strategic data use, and varied groupings will allow for greater differentiation, personalization, and...

### How do I develop student ownership and accountability in a station rotation model?

Implementing a station rotation model requires intentional accountability systems to develop student ownership and ensure student success. This guide will go through strategies for developing student ownership through choice, habits, and student...



## **Resources and Guidance**



# Our team works with educators to produce high-quality, free, and actionable tools that help translate ideas to concrete practice.



## **Digital Equity Guide**

## **Real-Time Redesign**





## Virtual/Hybrid Strategy Lab



TLA is assembling **two cohorts of 10-12 school system teams**, bringing them together over a period of 18 months. Systems will:

- Work with TLA individually to identify specific, measurable goals for learning and improvement, getting direct coaching from experts;
- Collaborate with cohort districts through cohort-wide monthly programming and periodic small-group partnership;
- Receive direct research support to gather and analyze data to help leaders make data-driven decisions about pilots and interventions as well as assess success; and
- Leave the program with a clear action plan for next steps.
- FREE for selected school systems!

