Overview

When strong professional learning systems support educators in implementing high-quality curriculum and instructional materials, more students have access to effective teaching and learning - and better student outcomes are the result. That premise drives the What Matters Now Network, a collaboration of state-based coalitions that include educators at the school, district, and state levels engaging in cycles of continuous learning with coaching and support. The Network is grounded in the vision established in the 2016 National Commission for Teaching & America's Future (NCTAF) report *What Matters Now: A New Compact for Teaching and Learning*.

Unique Components

The work of the What Matters Now Network is unique in its focus on these essential components:

- **Integrate professional learning with high-quality curriculum and instructional materials**
  - These fundamental school system elements often operate in different silos in districts and states, although research demonstrates the power of their integration. Aligning them can improve student achievement and save resources for states and districts.

- **Share leadership among diverse stakeholders**
  - State coalitions will thrive with expertise and engagement of educators and policymakers at many levels. Representatives from the school house to the state house will make and inform recommendations and decisions.

- **Inform policy with lessons learned from practice**
  - Lessons learned from practitioners implementing changes will inform potential action by policymakers. As research and practice emerge around the intersection of professional learning and high-quality curricula in the field, educators can provide firsthand experience about what is needed and effective for implementation.

- **Leverage improvement science**
  - Improvement science approaches and protocols will support local practitioners as they test small changes and strategies that have potential to solve big challenges. Cross-state coalitions’ commitments to shared problems and Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles will keep the work moving forward.