

UPDATES

LEARNING FORWARD LAUNCHES VIRTUAL DESIGN NETWORK

Learning Forward invites district and state leaders to join a new network designed to solve current challenges related to the design, implementation, and measurement of professional learning in virtual and digital models. Design Professional Learning for a Virtual World (DPLV) Network: A Redesign Professional Development Community of Practice will help educators adjust to and

thrive in online, remote, or hybrid learning.



Learning Forward networks are equity-centered and driven by the underlying principles of learning

teams: Learning is collaborative and continuous, solutions are data-driven, and educators are at the center of the work. Participants set goals specific to their context while learning from other districts and states and use continuous improvement processes to discover practical and scalable solutions.

Participation advances through three stages: supporting re-entry in the fall in virtual and hybrid learning environments; responding, recovering, and maximizing learning during the school year; and reinventing professional learning to acknowledge and embrace new learning models.

The network is forming now, with a virtual kickoff in September. For more information, visit learningforward.org/networks/virtual-design.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE:

We're going virtual

Learning Forward will host a virtual conference Dec. 6-8, bringing educators together for shared learning and powerful networking.

After consultation with health officials, educators, and long-standing conference vendors, we've decided that the planned face-to-face gathering in Chicago is not feasible. Data from our stakeholders also informed this decision, with 74% of more than 1,000 respondents indicating their employers wouldn't support travel to such a face-to-face convening.

Learn more at [conference.learningforward.org](https://learningforward.org).

The theme of this year's event is Innovate for Impact. We'll address questions such as how to ensure all students have equitable access to high-quality teaching and how professional learning can solve the challenges we face in the year ahead.

We'll highlight leading voices in professional learning from all levels — policy, system, school, and classroom — and connect our community of peers to share solutions and inspiration.

Look for more information about this opportunity on our website and in your email. Those of you who have already registered may apply your registration to the virtual conference. We will reach out to registered participants shortly with more details.

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIPS

Greenwood Leflore Consolidated School District in Mississippi and St. Croix River Education District in Minnesota have joined Learning Forward's district membership, and Suffolk (Virginia) Public Schools has renewed its membership.

Learning Forward's district membership allows districts to offer all their educators access to research, best practices, resources — including an exclusive discussion guide for each

issue of *The Learning Professional* — and member discounts.

This special group membership can help districts establish a common language and expectations about professional learning, foster collaborative learning, and save money and time.

To learn more about our district membership, visit learningforward.org/membership.

NEW GRANTS SUPPORT LEARNING FORWARD'S MISSION

The Wallace Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York recently approved new philanthropic support for Learning Forward.

The Wallace Foundation's board approved a two-year grant to enable Learning Forward to continue in its ongoing role as a communications partner. Since 2010, Learning Forward (then NSDC) has helped the foundation share knowledge, research, and resources aligned to its educational leadership and social and emotional learning initiatives.



The grant will provide Learning Forward with resources to showcase Wallace research and knowledge via our Annual Conference, publications, social media, and various learning events. The foundation is also supporting Learning Forward's efforts to transition in-person learning experiences to a virtual format.

As part of the grant, Frederick Brown, Learning Forward's chief learning officer, will serve as a liaison to the foundation's various learning communities, including one linked to the Wallace University Principal Preparation Initiative. Elizabeth Foster, Learning Forward's vice president, research & standards, will serve as liaison to the foundation's various social emotional learning activities.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has committed two years of funding to support Learning Forward's revision of the Standards for Professional Learning. The multiyear undertaking to revise the standards will include planning with the input of advisors representing more than 40 partner organizations and districts, development of revised standards and associated implementation and assessment tools, and dissemination and policy outreach.

The Carnegie Corporation supports Learning Forward's efforts to build the capacity of educators through the What Matters Now Network, a learning network grounded in improvement science. State coalitions in Maryland, Ohio, and Rhode Island use learning cycles to test and improve learning innovations on implementing high-quality instructional materials.

The Carnegie Corporation also supports Learning Forward's work to develop content-based coaching programs.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Learning Forward is continuing our series of webinars on responding to the COVID crisis. We are now offering a reflection guide for each webinar to help you to build on and enhance the learning on your own or with your teams. Learn more about our webinars at learningforward.org/webinars-2.

- **Aug. 13:** Meeting the Needs of our Youngest Learners
- **Aug. 20:** Assessment Approaches for Today's Learning Environments
- **Aug. 27:** Attending to the Health and Wellness of Educators as the School Year Starts
- **Sept. 3:** Connecting With Families When It's More Important Than Ever
- **Sept. 10:** Plan C: Preparing for the Next Wave
- **Sept. 17:** Learning From Coaches: Supporting Teams and Individuals



Join Learning Forward Maryland and Learning Forward Virginia for a book club and synchronous virtual learning session on equity implementation. Participants will read the book *Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity: The Keys to Successful Equity Implementation* and attend an online discussion with the authors, Floyd Cobb and John Krownapple.

For dates and times and to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/o/learning-forward-maryland-27387613631. For questions, contact Peter Carpenter at pcin2teaching@gmail.com.

FEATURED SOCIAL MEDIA POST

Follow us on social media. Share your insights and feedback about *The Learning Professional* by using #LearnFwdTLP.

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Stress cause: traumatic event that "Challenges a person's 'assumptive world'." Helpful article in a very helpful issue!
[@LearningForward](#)

We will be different
Build teachers' resilience to bounce back after crisis.
learningforward.org

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