

Overview

Introduction

Education is an engine that drives national prosperity and is a shared investment in our country's future. In the 21st century, the most important raw material we have is people with strong core academic knowledge and skills as well as creativity, innovative thinking and problem-solving ability. Now more than ever, the education level of our citizens will determine our future.

Yet, far too many young people fail to graduate from high school, and those that do are often not ready for college or the workplace. In order to prepare all students to live and work in a complex and rapidly changing global society, we must redesign the current standardized education system into one that is student-centered and tied to rigorous, common standards.

Ensuring the success of virtually all students will require hard work, innovation and systemic transformation. The Institute @ CESA #1 and its partner school districts have been actively engaged in transformational efforts for some time, and the process will take years to fully achieve. It will also take the active and ongoing engagement of parents, students, businesses and community members throughout the region and beyond.

Core Purposes of Public Education

- Develop the whole child—intellectually, socially and physically
- Nurture ethical citizens and contributors to society
- Promote cultural literacy
- Foster creative, curious, self-motivated, critical thinkers
- Develop economic self-sufficiency
- Instill democratic values, principles and beliefs

Personalized Learning Initiative

Through advocacy and collaboration, the Institute @ CESA #1 has launched a Personalized Learning Initiative to facilitate the design, implementation and growth of transformative practices that support a student-centered education system.

The Institute uses a unique regional action network approach to take advantage of multiple sites, simultaneously test a variety of strategies and models, and share research and learning to accelerate the effort. Districts throughout CESA #1 are preparing to implement transformative, student-centered projects that will move our region toward a full personalized learning system.

Roles Played by Public Schools

- Educational
- Custodial
- Community Enrichment
- Economic

This new system will be built on the enduring core purposes of education, and the traditional roles played by public schools will still be present. It will also have the ability to forge dynamic partnerships that can respond to emerging challenges and opportunities and the capacity to turn ideas into action.

The Vision: Where are we going?

All students are capable of learning, but too many are not adequately served by the current one-size-fits-all system. We simply cannot afford to keep expending resources re-teaching students the same things in the same way.

A public education system that is student-centered and based on personalized learning will be more effective, dynamic, financially sustainable and better able to meet the needs of today's learners. As conversations continued to take place among the networked districts, the vision became increasingly clear: *We must get learning right the first time—every time.*

Strategies: How will we get there?

Regional Action Networks

Networks are powerful creators of ideas and action. By applying the organizing principle of collective self-interest—aligning and coordinating individual efforts to make a collective impact—the Institute at CESA #1 has made significant progress in a relatively short period of time. To date, 21 districts are in various stages of developing or implementing transformative projects that touch virtually every level of the K-12 spectrum. The open-source environment encourages the sharing of knowledge and diverse perspectives and creates the synergy that powers innovation.



Connecting

Forming and strengthening the relationships or “connections” within a network is critical to aligning and mobilizing action around shared goals. The Institute at CESA #1 provides opportunities for open access and active cross-pollination of promising practices. As a result of this idea-rich environment, initial changes have the potential to grow and become transformative.

Leveraging

Strategically applying influence and information throughout the public education ecosystem has the potential to maximize resources as well as the speed at which transformation occurs. Leveraging the interest, capacity and expertise of individual districts throughout the region accelerates progress and benefits students and families across the region by:

- Fostering innovation
- Generating stakeholder engagement and ownership
- Producing faster results
- Replicating and scaling promising practices
- Increasing the likelihood of sustainability

Learn More

To learn more about the Institute, the Personalized Learning Initiative or the progress of the district projects, visit us at <http://theinstituteatcesa1.org>.
