Benefits, Services, and Supports for AASA’s Learning 2025 Network of Demonstration Systems

AASA’s Learning 2025: National Commission on Student-Centered, Equity-Focused, Future Driven Education recommended eleven essential principles for systemic school system redesign. The recommendations are foundational for learning, growing, and taking action together. The Learning 2025 Commission report, *An American Imperative: A New Vision of Public Schools*, is available using this link:

**An American Imperative: A New Vision of Public Schools**

Our core action plan is based on the reality that no district can fully implement all eleven recommendations at one time and that no one district can alone meet the aspirational Commission goals. The collaborative network of districts and communities of practice will help guide and reposition partner districts efficiently by sharing successful practices and successes, as well as challenges.

AASA invites school systems to apply to engage in a process of advancing Student-Centered, Equity-Focused, Future-Driven Education throughout their systems by joining a Learning 2025 Network of Demonstration Systems. The benefits of becoming a member Demonstration System can be recognized as a value-add to a district.

Every district that joins AASA’s Learning 2025 Network of Demonstration Systems will receive personalized consultation on strategic direction and will become part of a community of learners who help each other as critical friends, all focused on student learning, and committed to accountability to the Commission’s vision, as they contribute to the national research, practice, and policy.

It is of paramount importance to ASAA that all member education systems, whether they join the Network or not, ensure that policies and practices are guided based on enhancing the well-being of ALL children now and into their future. The Learning 2025: National Commission’s goal is to engage teachers, administrative staff, superintendents, and boards—in collaboration with families, caregivers, and the community—in setting the future direction of each individual education system and in accordance with the Commission’s recommendations. Each school system has its own DNA and the resulting action plans—should the district join the Network of Demonstration Systems—will respect those unique qualities and what is important to the wider community but remain mindful of individual viewpoints.
Becoming a Learning 2025 Network of Demonstration System

Districts which commit to the Learning 2025 initiative place students at the center of their work. AASA has created, with support from the Successful Practices Network (SPN) and other national partners, a national network of Demonstration Systems that exemplify, demonstrate, and share with colleagues across the country. AASA’s Learning 2025 Network of Demonstration Districts work to transform system culture to become more Student-Centered, Equity-Focused, and Future-Driven and will monitor progress along a growth continuum.

Participating as a Demonstration System should not be viewed as “one more thing”; rather, we see our work together as a way of strategically focusing system progress. The work of the demonstration districts will need to focus on how to organize and prioritize current district initiatives, including identifying structures or practices that could be redirected, deferred, or even removed.

Demonstration Systems could be individual school districts, a group of districts working together, or an entire community of business and non-profit leaders working with school system leaders. System leaders will be engaged in an active community of practice with colleagues and national experts as they progress along the continuum, relying on one another for thought leadership and best practices.

First Steps

*Educational System Reflection Guide and Application:*
https://aasacentral.org/learning-2025-framework/

Once accepted, Learning 2025 Network participation begins with a welcome interview with AASA and SPN to gather pertinent information about the educational ecosystem during which the Superintendent and senior staff can share, for example:

- District priorities and goals for the next four years
- Anticipated challenges to achieving those priorities and goals
- Any existing programs, systems, or initiatives that they believe are noteworthy or would be beneficial to highlight for other districts in the Network.

Supports and Services

Senior Consultant

Each System will be connected with a Senior Consultant who understands and has experience with the characteristics and issues that are important to the educational system and community it serves. As AASA/SPN work with communities of practice, efforts will be made to identify consultants who are from that state and will work with the national network. The Senior Consultant will have executive-level education experience, be supported by resources from AASA and SPN, will be knowledgeable
about providing support to Superintendents, Boards of Education, and Cabinet-level staff.

Following the initial welcome interview, the Senior Consultant will commit to, at the convenience of the district and direction of the Superintendent, a total of 16 hours in virtual discussion with staff on items, such as:

- Obtaining a more in-depth understanding of the district’s priorities, challenges, and successful programs or policies
- Assisting in the development of an Action Plan for the district
- Providing support to leadership team members
- Speaking to school and community-based groups (at the request of the Superintendent)
- Speaking to parents, families, and caregivers of students (at the request of the Superintendent)

**Concierge On-call Service**

The Senior Consultant will serve as the point-of-contact for concierge on-call service for the Superintendent and the district leadership team. The Senior Consultant will have the support of AASA, SPN, and several of the nation’s most respected leading education organizations and thought leaders who have agreed to provide their expertise and guidance to members of AASA’s Network of Demonstration Systems.

The Senior Consultant will have access to up-to-date information on research and evidence-based practices being implemented across all the Network districts. Therefore, if a member district has a concern requiring support, the district would only need to reach out to the Senior Consultant to have access to the most current, effective practices and guidance from the nation’s most respected individuals, organizations, and districts.

If the district requires additional consulting services, the Senior Consultant will be on-call to recommend an appropriate individual or organization who can assist and coordinate support.

**Monitoring progress**

A team headed by Dr. Malbert Smith III, CEO, President and Co-founder of MetaMetrics and creator of the Lexile and Quantile Frameworks® and one of the nation’s most respected psychometricians, will provide options for school districts to engage in data-sharing and creation of tools to monitoring attainment of strategic goals.

This work will be guided by thought leaders from business and industry who are ahead of the curve in terms of implementing innovative strategies and solutions that align to key components of Learning 2025 recommendations. The team will identify assessments that could be used to inform or bolster the district’s ability to achieve its priorities and goals for maximizing student achievement.

Network districts will have the option of participating with Dr. Smith and team in developing a dashboard to collect and report district-level growth data, including
advice about documenting and communicating what the data show. Under discussion for this work are areas such as:

- Reviewing existing reporting portals and report cards
- Aligning data elements to the social-emotional, cognitive, or other growth goals of the district
- Developing and implementing a growth application programming interface (API) to build learner growth trajectories in reading and math achievement

Professional Learning: Transformative and Innovative Research-based Practices

The identification, validation, and dissemination of research-based practices will be provided through multiple channels:

**AASA’s Leadership Network Cohorts** — Each district engaged in Learning 2025 Network of Demonstration Systems will receive membership in their choice of one of AASA’S Leadership Network Cohorts to support their priority goals at no additional cost*. Cohorts such as Redefining Ready, Early Learning, Personalized Learning, Social-Emotional Learning, and Parent Engagement all align to and support the eleven key redesign components as recommended by the National Commission. *Equivalent to $2000

**Professional Learning Series** — AASA and SPN will offer monthly professional learning opportunities. We will kick off in July with Ray McNulty’s discussing leadership in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world. Professional learning series will continue each month, featuring nationally recognized thought leader practitioners leading discussions on the eleven components of redesign recommended by the National Commission. The professional learning presentations will build understanding of the Commission principles and will be housed in the Canvas learning management system available to all Learning 2025 Network Systems. District leadership teams will be able to include appropriate staff within their district to participate and use the Study Guides.

** Emerging Practices Videos** — Each month, validated practices evolving from demonstration systems will be shared in video presentations. The Emerging Practices Learning Series will also be housed within the Canvas learning management system which is AASA’s one-stop shop for resources and discussion with educational leaders engaged in the Learning 2025 Network. Participating districts will be encouraged to share these videos with faculty and educational leaders.

**Network Members Validated Practices** — Many of the Demonstration Systems participating in the Network already have cutting-edge, research-based practices, policies, and protocols in place. As district leaders collaborate, all will be developing and refining their systems. Senior Consultants will be kept up to date on the progress and efficacy of all initiatives across the Network and will share them with the systems they are supporting.Upon request, they will also connect the Superintendent or the leadership team with other district leaders to discuss strategies, processes, and other
shared issues.

**Blogs and Newsletters** — Validated practices will be shared by way of blogs and newsletters, which, similar to the video series, districts will be encouraged to share with faculty and educational leaders. The videos, blogs, and newsletters can assist districts in creating a culture that is focused on the Whole Learner, is Equitable and is Future-Driven.

**Case Studies** — Comprehensive case studies for the validated practices will be written and shared with Learning 2026 Network of Demonstration Systems.

**Study Tours/Site Visits** — Professional site visits, either in person or virtual, to districts with validated case studies will be organized for interested Learning 2025 Network systems.

**National Conferences**

Two National Conferences will be held annually over the next four years for Learning 2025 Network system leaders to attend.

**AASA’s National Conference on Education (NCE)** — Each February, on the Wednesday prior to the NCE, participating Learning 2025 Network System leaders will meet to share practices that have proven successful and provide guidance to AASA and SPN on services and supports they would like for the coming year. The annual pre-NCE program will be built around the work and validated practices of the Demonstration Districts.

**A Learning 2025 Summer Summit on Student-Centered, Equity-Focused, and Future-Driven Education** will be held for all AASA Learning 2025 Network Systems. Participating districts will be encouraged to bring a team of leaders that represent teachers, administrators, and board members. The validated practices, policies, and systems will be presented as all team members will have an opportunity to meet with colleagues from the other participating Network systems. This Summer Summit will be based on networking and engagement. Participating districts will learn about successful practices, strategies, policies, and systems across the nation, and then teams will work on site to refine their plan of action for the coming year.

Participation in the Network of Demonstration Systems will provide Superintendents and their leadership teams ample opportunity to deliver their message to a national audience. AASA will provide press releases to assist in that outreach effort.

**A Voice in the Future of American Education**

Superintendents need to become the leading voice for the future of American education. Evidence and research practices must inform policy. The participating districts will provide the necessary leadership to our nation in achieving this important goal.

**Participation in the Network**
In gratitude to businesses, foundations, and individual contributors for providing resources and financial support, we can offer this complete suite of services for an annual district participation fee of $14,000 for AASA members. The annual fee for non-members is $15,400.

For more information, with any questions or concerns, or if in need of a conversation, please contact AASA team members, Mort Sherman, Associate Executive Director - msherman@aasa.org; Valerie Truesdale, Assistant Executive Director - vtruesdale@aasa.org; Debbie Magee, Program Director – dmagee@aasa.org; or Successful Practices Network leaders, Ray McNulty, President rmcnulty@spnetwork.org; Todd Daggett, Chief Operations Officer ttaggett@spnetwork.org; or send an inquiry to Learning2025@aasa.org.