

Benefits, Services, and Supports to Demonstration Systems

The AASA Learning 2025: National Commission on Student-Centered, Equity-Focused Education recommended eleven essential principles for systemic school and 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:

https://aasacentral.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CommissionReportFINAL_040821.pdf.

Our core action plan is based on the reality that no district system can fully implement all eleven recommendations at one time and that no one district system 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-Driven Education throughout their systems. The benefits of becoming a member Demonstration System can be quantified and can be recognized as a value-add to a district.

Every district that commits to becoming a Demonstration System 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.

Becoming a 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 Systems 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 Demonstration System participation begins with an interview with the leadership of AASA and SPN to gather pertinent information about the district that 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 and would be beneficial to other districts in the Network.

Support 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 district and community it serves. As AASA/SPN work with state 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 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)

Concierge On-call Service

The Senior Consultant will serve as the point-of-contact for concierge on-call service for the Superintendent and the system 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 the Network of Demonstration System members.

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 agency who can assist them and coordinate any work to be done.

Monitoring progress

A team headed by Dr. Malbert Smith III, CEO, President & Co-founder of MetaMetrics and creator of the Lexile and Quantile Frameworks® and one of the nation's most respected psychometricians, will provide tools, advice and consultation to support 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 then identify assessments that could be used to inform or bolster the district's ability to achieve its priorities and goals for maximizing student achievement.

District Dashboard

Network districts will have the option of developing over the course of the next several years, in virtual consultation with a team headed by Dr. Smith, a Dashboard to collect and report district-level growth data, including advice about documenting and communicating what the data shows. This work may include:

- Reviewing existing reporting portals and report cards
- Aligning data elements to the social-emotional, cognitive, or other growth goals of the district.
- Selecting an Equity Dashboard.
- Developing and implementing a growth API to build individual learner growth trajectories of 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 Cohort — Learning 2025 Network districts 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, and Social-Emotional Learning all align to and support the eleven key redesign components as recommended by the National Commission.

**Equivalent to \$2000*

Monthly Symposia — AASA and SPN will offer monthly professional learning opportunities. We will kick off in July with Ray McNulty discussing leadership in a VACU world. The formal series will begin in September 2021, when nationally recognized thought leader practitioners will lead discussions on Commission-based principles. These awareness level discussions will be included in our LMS and will be followed by opportunity for more detailed study and action. System leadership teams will be able to identify and invite appropriate staff within their system to participate.

Monthly Videos — Each month, validated practices will be shared by way of video presentations. The video series will be housed within AASA's learning management system and open to educational leaders engaged in the Network. Participating districts will be encouraged to share these videos with faculty and other groups, if relevant.

Network Members Validated Practices — Many of the Demonstration Systems participating in the Network already have cutting-edge, research-based practices, policies, and systems in place. Many other districts will be developing and refining similar systems. The 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 districts they are supporting. Upon request, they will also connect the Superintendent or the leadership team with other system 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 other groups. The videos, blogs, and newsletters can assist districts in creating a culture that is focused on the Whole Learner, Marginalizes No Learner, and is Future Driven.

Case Studies — Comprehensive case studies for the validated practices will be written and shared with all participating districts.

Study Tours/Site Visits — Professional visits to districts with validated case studies will be organized and coordinated for all member districts.

National Conferences

Two National Conferences will be held annually over the next four years for member Network districts to attend.

AASA's annual National Conference on Education (NCE) — Each February, prior to the NCE, participating network districts 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 Systems.

A Learning 2025 Summer Research and Next Practices Conference will be held for all Demonstration 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 districts. This Conference will be based on networking and engagement. Participating districts will learn about the nation's most successful practices, strategies, policies, and systems, and then they will work on site to refine their plan of action for the coming year.

Participation in the Network of Demonstration Systems will provide education systems and their leadership 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.

Calendar Save the Dates

Please save the following dates and times for our soft launch sessions on July 28 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM ET and August 24 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET. The sessions will be recorded for those not able to participate in the live virtual sessions. The official kick-off of the Demonstration Systems Communities of Practice will be September 28 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM ET. Additional information will follow.

Contacts

For more information, contact Mort Sherman, Associate Executive Director - msherman@aasa.org; Valerie Truesdale, Assistant Executive Director - vtruesdale@aasa.org; Debbie Magee, Program Director – dmagee@aasa.org, Ray McNulty, President, SPN – rmcnulty@spnetwork.org; Todd Daggett, Chief Operations Officer, SPN – tdaggett@spnetwork.org, or write to Learning2025@aasa.org.